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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

England...Italy players, led by goalscorer Leonardo Bonucci, celebrate with the trophy after winning Euro 2020

England...Raheem Sterling reels off in celebration against Croatia at Wembley after scoring his first-ever tournament goal

Germany...France v Germany is interrupted by a Greenpeace protester prior to kick-off at the Allianz Arena

Denmark...Yussuf Poulsen celebrates scoring against Russia while beer cups rain down on him

Hungary...France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris concedes a penalty after catching Portugal's Danilo in the head with his fist

Scotland...David Marshall gets tangled in the net after being beaten by Patrik Schick's record-breaking halfway-line goal for Czech Republic

Italy...the Euro 2020 opening ceremony at the Stadio Olimpico, Rome

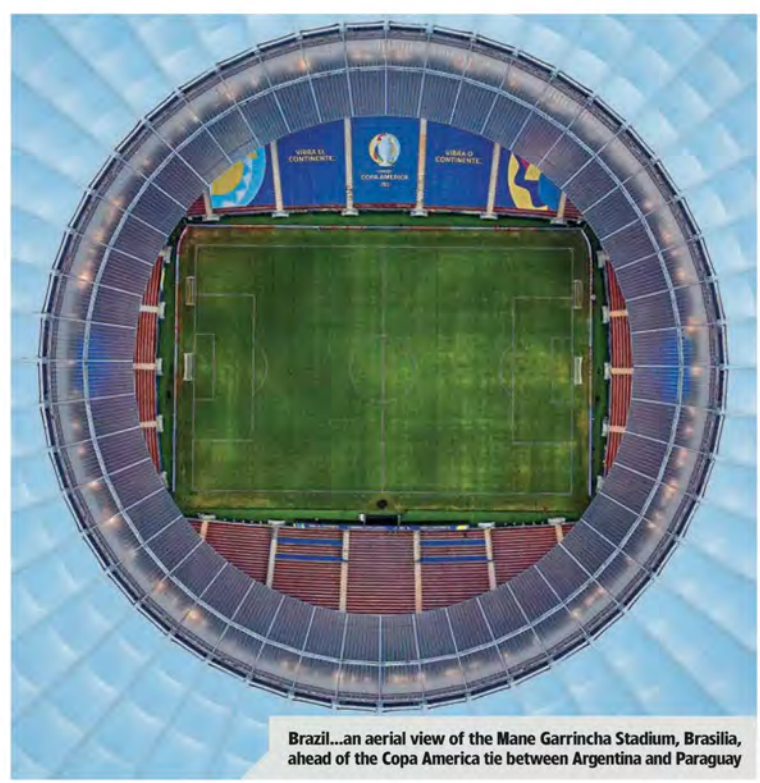
Brazil...Argentina's Lionel Messi scores against Chile – his second free-kick of the 2021 Copa America

Japan...forward Ado Onaiwu painfully collides with a post during Japan's friendly with Serbia

Tunisia...Esperance fans during their team's CAF Champions League semi-final clash with Al Ahly

Mexico...Tigres' new signing Florian Thauvin dances with club mascot *El Tigre* during his unveiling, attended by 11,000 fans

USA...Guyana's Nicholai Andrews attempts a bicycle-kick during his side's Gold Cup preliminary match against Guatemala



Brazil...an aerial view of the Mane Garrincha Stadium, Brasilia, ahead of the Copa America tie between Argentina and Paraguay

FROM THE EDITOR

International football continues to strive by captivating audiences and resonating with supporters, and the brilliant Euro 2020 tournament was the epitome of that. Those who predicted the decline of international football all those years ago couldn't have been more wrong.

While club football has been tarnished by the recent rise of the Super League, and gets caught up all too often in the pursuit of wealth, football on the international stage retains a purity that is cherished by devoted fans, journalists and pundits alike. The only motivations at this level are passion and pride. And with that shared philosophy, footballers and supporters share a symbiotic bond.

You need only witness the emotional rollercoaster that Denmark rode; the whole nation uniting behind a galvanised national team following Christian Eriksen's on-pitch collapse, leading to evocative displays such as those against Russia and Wales. Watching underdogs Switzerland celebrate an enthralling giant-killing against France in the last 16 was magical, showcasing why this is the best and most unpredictable sport in the world. And then there was England, finally managing to beat Germany in a knockout round tie and reaching their first major tournament final for 55 years.

> It was undoubtedly one of the greatest major international tournaments in living memory, perhaps of all time

After what the world has lived through the past 18 months, this is what we all needed. Football delivered. Having supporters back in packed stadiums created the magical atmosphere sorely missed in recent times. Worries over fatigue and how demanding domestic seasons would impact the tournament proved wide of the mark. There were more goals than any European Championship ever. Action, drama, energy, excitement and, oddly, own goals were plentiful. It was undoubtedly one of the greatest major international tournaments in living memory, perhaps of all time, and featured some of the greatest ups and most dramatic downs we've ever witnessed.

How the country-hopping host format affects transmission of COVID going forward remains to be seen. The format was also criticised logistically by many, with some teams travelling thousands of miles (Wales) and others only stepping foot out of their own country once (England). This tournament was certainly different, that's for sure. But then, some things never change: new national heroes continue to be made, Cristiano Ronaldo continues to break scoring records and penalty-shootout defeats continue to be the scourge of England.

Euro 2020 was a wonderful tournament, and hopefully this *World Soccer* special souvenir review edition will keep the magic alive on your bookshelves for years to come.

Stephen Fishlock, Group Editor

England man... Sancho agreed the move during Euro 2020

ENGLAND

Sancho eyes Manchester United's historic No.7 shirt

Jadon Sancho has reportedly requested Manchester United's iconic No.7 shirt after completing his £73 million move from Borussia Dortmund.

Edinson Cavani, who signed a one-year extension at Old Trafford towards the end of last season, is the current incumbent of the shirt famously worn by the likes of George Best, Eric Cantona, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo, and will need to be persuaded to give it up for Sancho.

The deal for the 21-year-old makes him the second-most expensive English player of all time – after Harry Maguire's £85m move to United from Leicester City in 2019 – and concludes a long-running saga that saw Dortmund resist offers for at least a year. *Turn to page 18 for more transfer updates.*

UK

Charity urges public to learn CPR

Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest during Euro 2020 has prompted UK charity Resuscitation Council UK to urge members of the public to learn how to perform CPR.

The midfielder was saved thanks largely to

"The impact of the rule now runs counter to its original purpose as it now dissuades home teams from attacking…it is fair to say that home advantage is nowadays no longer as significant as it once was"

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin confirms that the away goals rule will now be scrapped from UEFA club competitions

his team-mate and captain Simon Kjaer, who quickly recognised Eriksen's condition and helped clear his airways before CPR was administered on the pitch. "Without the swift actions of those on the pitch, the medical staff who treated him, and the hospital staff who took/are taking care of him, the outcome might have been very different," said Sue Hampshire, Director of Clinical and Service Development at Resuscitation Council UK.

"We're asking everyone to learn CPR, and act quickly in an emergency, to ensure everyone in need has the same chance of survival as Christian Eriksen did.

"Learning CPR couldn't be easier."

The charity's website (resus.org.uk/watch) contains a video guide on how to learn the live-saving skill in an emergency, and there are also free training resources available from sports charity UK Coaching, which provide the skills to restart a heart. You can access those at: www.ukcoaching.org/sca

Hero…Kjaer's quick reactions saved his team-mate's life

UEFA & CONMEBOL

New international competition in the pipeline

Plans are underway for a new "International Super Cup" to be played between the winners of the European Championship and the Copa America.

Talks have reportedly taken place between UEFA and CONMEBOL, the confederations responsible for organising the two tournaments, while FIFA are also said to be keen for a new competition to effectively replace their Confederations Cup, which was abolished in 2019. If the plans are approved, the first edition is likely to be in 2025 – one year before the 2026 World Cup in USA – and featuring the winners of Euro 2024 and the 2024 Copa America.

HEROES & VILLAINS

Chile new boy…Ben Brereton

BEN BRERETON

For Chile fans, their Stoke-on-Trent-born striker came quite literally out of nowhere. Virtually nobody in Brereton's adopted country had heard of him, until fans of the *Football Manager* computer game observed that the Blackburn Rovers striker was eligible for the country through his grandfather. Brereton's call-up was stunning enough in itself, but the 22-year-old added to his heroics by netting the winner in Chile's 1-0 victory over Bolivia.

SIERRA LEONE

In June, the West African country made history by qualifying for their third Africa Cup of Nations, and their first since 1996. Since that first-round exit 25 years ago, further qualifications have been barred by civil war, an Ebola epidemic and a FIFA suspension, but a 1-0 win over Benin (a match originally postponed over a COVID-19 row) saw them clinch Group L's runners-up spot and return to African football's top table.

JAMIE VARDY

The ex-England striker has given a New York club the chance to return to regular football by becoming a co-owner. Rochester Rhinos are the only non-MLS club to win the US Open Cup in 1999, but haven't played since 2017. A club statement said: "The Leicester City striker has bought a minority stake and is excited by the prospect of being part of a journey that puts the Rhinos and Rochester back on the map."

LUKAS PODOLSKI

The former Arsenal and Germany forward has sealed his "dream" move by signing for Polish club Gornik Zabrze. The World Cup winner was born in the neighbouring town of Gliwice, and even bought shares in the club back in 2014. It is expected to be the 36-year-old's final club.

BAKU OLYMPIC STADIUM

During Denmark's 2-1 win over Czech Republic in Azerbaijan, a Danish fan had a rainbow flag confiscated. Although the flag was later returned, it was yet another example of UEFA's hollow support of LGBT rights, coming just days after the Allianz Arena was forbidden from being lit in rainbow colours for Germany v Hungary.

US STATE DEPARTMENT

Strict visa rules have caused several disruptions to football in the USA over recent weeks. First, St. Vincent and the Grenadines were only able to take 13 players – none of them a goalkeeper – to the States for their preliminary Gold Cup qualifier with Haiti, which they lost 6-1. The next day, Vancouver Whitecaps had to release Iraq international Ali Adnan due to persistent visa issues, while Cuba were disqualified from the Gold Cup after several members of the squad were unable to gain entry to the US.

GRIEZMANN & DEMBELE

The Barcelona duo were drawn into a racism row after a video emerged of the pair mocking TV technicians in Japan. Hiroshi Mikitani – the Japanese co-founder of Barca's shirt sponsor Rakuten – took to social media to express his outrage at the video, which will likely have repercussions for the pair. Dembele said on Instagram: "It could've taken place anywhere on the planet and I would've used the same expression," while Griezmann added on Twitter that he was "against all forms of discrimination".

EVERTON FANS

One group of Toffees supporters went too far in expressing their opposition to the appointment of former Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez as the new manager at Goodison Park. A banner with the words: "We know where you live – don't sign", was put up in Benitez's street in Wirral.

Divisive…new Everton manager Rafa Benitez

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

The question without an answer

To play or not to play? The insoluble question haunted Euro 2020 after Christian Eriksen's traumatic on-pitch collapse. Sad sports history indicates no easy answers, no simple formulae, no satisfactory response.

Denmark's playmaker needed extensive treatment on the pitch at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen in that tormented Group B match against Finland. The 29-year-old had been at the centre of the action in a goalless first half when he collapsed while running forward towards a throw-in.

Team-mates immediately summoned medical help, English referee Anthony Taylor halted the game and sent the Finns back to the dressing rooms while the distraught Danish players provided a shield around their stricken team-mate as he received CPR and defibrillator treatment.

Thankfully "we got him back," as team doctor Morten Boesen said in understatement, and Eriksen was removed to hospital for further care, including the insertion of an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) just days later. However, after a break of nearly two hours following his cardiac arrest, the match was resumed and Finland duly won 1-0.

But why was the match resumed then? Should it have been resumed at all? Would the Danes have been in their rights to refuse? Were they pressured by UEFA? If precedents existed, what were they?

Statements of officials and players indicate they were in no fit state to render a coherent answer when UEFA presented the lose/lose ultimatum of resuming that evening or the following midday.

No one thought to ask whether they wanted to play on at all.

Later reflections suggested they would have been miserably content to leave a nightmare match behind them, take a point apiece (the match was goalless at the time) and move on with the rest of the group.

Christian Eriksen... the playmaker played 41 minutes before collapsing

> Why was the match resumed then? Should it have been resumed at all? Would the Danes have been in their rights to refuse? Were they pressured by UEFA? If precedents existed, what were they?

Old hero Peter Schmeichel, father of goalkeeper Kasper and a former European champion himself, considered UEFA's clumsy approach "absolutely ridiculous." He said: "UEFA should have tried to work out a different scenario and show a bit of compassion, and they didn't."

The players, according to head coach Kasper Hjulmand, "were in a shocked condition and didn't know if they had lost their best friend." He added: "I have a sense we shouldn't have played. The players were completely and emotionally devastated. We sat and hugged, everyone had experienced something very traumatic."

As Barcelona's Martin Braithwaite said: "There were lots of players who felt unable to play. We were in a bad place. We were told we had to make a decision. None of the options were good. We took the least bad one."

Of course UEFA denied falling short on humanity and sensitivity. A spokesperson said: "UEFA is sure it treated the matter with utmost respect for the sensitive situation and for the players. It was decided to restart the match only after the two teams requested to finish the game on the same evening."

Then, damningly, that anonymous mouthpiece added: "The players' need for 48 hours' rest between matches eliminated other options."

FIFA used to have an extra-day option in the longer and larger World Cup, but that is far easier to manage in a single-venue host country. The misbegotten all-over-the-place staging of Euro 2020 presented a further hindrance to extraordinary circumstances.

Comparisons were drawn, in the subsequent hours, with the Fabrice Muamba incident at White Hart Lane, Tottenham, in 2012 when the Bolton Wanderers midfielder suffered a cardiac arrest and did not revive for 78 minutes. This was not the case with Eriksen.

German doctor Jens Kleinfeld, who treated Eriksen on the pitch, said: "About 30 seconds [after application of the defibrillator] he opened his eyes and I could talk to him directly. I asked him: 'Well, are you back with us?' He said: 'Yes, I am back with you' and 'damn, I'm only 29 years old.'

"That's when I knew the brain wasn't damaged and he had fully returned."

None of that mitigated the shock of the moment among the Danish players, officials and the fans in the stadium at what they had witnessed. In the past, knowledge of such events has not always been available or obvious or shared with players of other matches visited by similar fates – and much worse.

Take the Burden Park disaster in 1946, when 33 fans died and hundreds were injured in a crowd crush at an FA Cup tie between Bolton Wanderers and Stoke City. The game was interrupted and restarted twice with some of the bodies lying, covered, beyond the touchline as the game went on. No-one told the players – including Stanley Matthews – the extent of the disaster. Later they were devastated to learn the truth.

In 1985 the European Cup final between Juventus and Liverpool was played out in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels despite 39 deaths and many hundreds of injuries. A retaining wall had collapsed into an access bay as Italian fans retreated under the advance of a hooligan mob.

The players were not told the extent of the disaster and UEFA – them again! – and the Belgian authorities were virulently criticised for playing on. In fact, the reasoning possessed some logic. Playing the match kept the majority of fans in the stadium thus keeping the forecourt clear to treat casualties and ensure ambulance access. But Michel Platini, who scored the winning penalty, refused ever to go back.

No such option four years later at Hillsborough. Then the pitch itself was the disaster zone and, 22 years later, a seemingly never-ending trauma continues to enwrap the victims' families.

The 1972 Munich Olympic Games continued despite 17 deaths after Israeli athletes and coaches were taken hostage by Black September terrorists. Some observers who opposed carrying on at the time have since changed their minds; but then, so have some who initially supported a resumption of the Games.

In 2003 FIFA insisted on playing out the last two matches of the Confederations Cup in France after the collapse during a semi-final and subsequent death of Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe. This writer was present, thinking then and still believing that playing out the meaningless tournament was tawdry and tasteless.

The difference between these headline-grabbing disasters and the Eriksen incident is that, thankfully, the player was "got back" and can hopefully live a long and fulfilling life. But no one who was in the Parken Stadium will forget the events that afternoon when the football world stopped.

Sadly some other day, in some other stadium, somewhere else, the scene will be repeated. And the question without an answer will be posed again.

Precedent...Fabrice Muamba collapsed during a match in 2012

BOOKS THIS MONTH

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET
By Tim Hartley (Pitch Publishing, £9.99)

Tim Hartley goes on a footballing tour of the world, meeting fans in Hong Kong who refuse to bow to China, helping clear goats off a pitch in Africa and kicking off the chanting at a bizarre game in North Korea, before coming home to visit all 92 Football League grounds and watching a prisoners' team desperate to play a competitive match. Using wry observation and detailed research, *The World at Your Feet* unfurls the good, the bad and the ugly in its search for the soul of the beautiful game.

FOOTBALL IN A PANDEMIC
By Sam Hudson (Pitch Publishing, £12.99)

With empty stadiums, COVID tests and falling revenues, the 2020-21 football calendar was like no other. *Football in a Pandemic* takes an in-depth look at the tactics and strategies used during this unique season, with UEFA-licensed coach Sam Hudson putting the game plans under the microscope, highlighting the many intricacies and micro-tactics used by some of football's finest coaching minds.

Jonathan WILSON
GLOBAL VIEW

Orban's place at the European Championship shows that football and politics remain inseparable

Viktor Orban decided against going to Munich. Instead the Hungarian prime minister went to dinner in Brussels with Giorgia Meloni, leader of the post-fascist Fratelli d'Italia party. But everybody knew the reason he hadn't gone to watch his country's final group game: the prospect of protests against legislation recently passed in Hungary banning the representation of LGBT lifestyles in schools or on TV shows aimed at under-18s. In the end, he missed what was very nearly Hungary's greatest result for half a century: how many rainbow flags would have been worth *ein Wunder von Munchen* (the Miracle of Munich)?

That Orban loves football is not in doubt. When he first became prime minister in 1998, his first overseas trip was to the World Cup final and he has been a regular at major games ever since. Having been on Videoton's books in his teens, he has played consistently since, and many of his cabinet played for the same five-a-side team. But he has also used football – and Euro 2020 was part of the programme.

Orban lost the election in 2002, but his comeback began in October 2006 with a speech at a march to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising against Soviet control. It was as a result of the Uprising that a number of senior players, including Ferenc Puskas and the entire national Under-21 squad, defected to the west, bringing to an end the golden age of Hungarian football. A week before Orban's speech, Hungary lost to Malta. The following month, Puskas died. On April 1 the following year, the 80th anniversary of Puskas' birth, Orban co-founded the Puskas Academy in his home village of Felcsut.

Protester...one fan took a rainbow flag onto the pitch ahead of Germany's clash v Hungary

The academy has grown and grown. In 2014, its new stadium, a remarkable structure of vaulted roofs and copper domes, opened, its capacity almost double the population of the village. Last season, Puskas Akademia finished second in the first division. Orban, who was re-elected in 2010, attends regularly, as do other politicians and business leaders; the stadium has become a vital centre for networking.

Orban used his re-election as a mandate for a series of authoritarian reforms. The freedom of the press has been severely restricted. Fidesz, Orban's party, has taken hold of swathes of public life. Football has become a means of restoring national pride. Of the 12 top-flight clubs, 11 are now effectively affiliated to Fidesz. A much-criticised initiative offered tax breaks to companies who invest in football clubs, leading to more than two dozen new stadiums being built over the past decade. The grandest of them is the new Ferenc Puskas Arena, built on the site of the old Nepstadion near the centre of Budapest.

It is central to Orban's vision. He knows there is almost no chance of Hungarian football returning to the levels of the early 1950s. The financial structures of football are stacked against it. Young talent is inevitably drawn to Austria and Germany and changing that will

> That Viktor Orban loves football is not in doubt... But he has also used football – and Euro 2020 was part of the programme

Orban...Hungary's prime minister

be a long, perhaps impossible, task even if the success of Roland Sallai, who came through the Puskas Akademia, is now at Freiburg and set up the opener against Germany, hints at what may be possible.

But what Hungary can do now is host sport. It has recently staged the world judo, wrestling and aquatics championships and, when the 2020 UEFA Super Cup was shifted from Porto's Estadio do Dragao, the Puskas Arena stepped in. It was also the venue for both legs of both Manchester City against Borussia Monchengladbach and Liverpool against RB Leipzig in the last 16 of the 2020-21 Champions League season, when COVID regulations made playing the games in England and Germany impossible. And the centre-piece of that was the European Championship. Orban has brought the circuses to town.

That's why he was desperate for full stadiums from the off (particularly given the probability of Hungary being eliminated in the group stage). Hungary has had the second-highest death rate in the world from COVID, behind only Peru, but with cases under 200 per week and five million people having received a first dose of the vaccination (almost half the total population), he lifted restrictions at the end of May. Whether or not that was the right decision epidemiologically is debatable, but it guaranteed packed houses and an atmosphere that drew praise from across Europe from fans and pundits tired of games being played out before swatches of empty seats.

But look a little closer, and there is an unsavoury side. Many of those fans in black T-shirts who pack the end behind the goal to the left from the main camera angle belong to the Carpathian Brigade, a far-right ultra group that is proudly racist and homophobic that represents the extreme wing of Orban's base.

And yet he opposed lighting the Allianz Arena in rainbow colours on the grounds that football and politics shouldn't mix. They always have, and they always will.

REPORTS WE COULDN'T MAKE UP

Angry fans... Corinthians forward Jo

1 BOOT BETRAYAL

Corinthians striker Jo was hit with a fine by his club after taking to the pitch in their Serie A clash with Bahia wearing a green pair of boots – the colour of the club's arch-rivals, Palmeiras. In a statement, the Sao Paulo club said that they "spoke with striker Jo about the use of football boots in the match against Bahia. The player was warned, fined and will not wear them again, neither in training or in games." The former Brazil striker, who has enjoyed spells in Russia, England, Japan, China, United Arab Emirates and Turkey during his club career, and is now currently in his third spell at the Sao Paulo club, said: "I would never disrespect Corinthians, much less the fans. I have always honoured this shirt and I always will."

2 ACTING UP

Thai League 1 side Ratchaburi Mitr Phol marked their first appearance in the Asian Champions League with a Hollywood signing: actor Phakin Khamwilaisak, also known as "Tono". After training with the club to improve his fitness, the former reality TV star is said to have done enough to earn a six-month contract and a spot in the Champions League squad. Tono's story didn't quite to go script however: he didn't play a single minute as Ratchaburi were dumped out of the group stage with just two points.

3 "WE HAVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EUROPE"

That was the verdict of the six French supporters that set out to Bucharest to watch their country take on Hungary in the Euro 2020 group stage, 518 miles from Budapest where the match actually took place. According to reports, the group didn't even realise their mistake until arriving in the Romanian capital city, when they attempted to follow some Ukrainian fans (in town for their team's Group C fixture with Austria) to the stadium. "We thought they were Hungarian fans going to the game and we followed them," said one of the men.

4 AFRICAN SUPER LEAGUE

Undeterred by the near-universal derision that greeted proposals for a European Super League, Patrice Motsepe, the new president of CAF (Confederation of African Football), has announced plans for an African equivalent. His organisation, he said, are: "in preliminary discussions to start an inclusive and broadly supported and beneficial CAF Super League." FIFA president Gianni Infantino is reportedly behind the idea, with the goal of making football on the continent more financially viable.

5 FAKE NAME

The Bundesliga Rookie of the Season, Silas Wamangituka, has revealed that he spent the last four years playing under a false name and age. The Stuttgart striker – whose real name is in fact Silas Katompa Mvumpa – admitted that an agent pressured him into adopting a fake passport while on trial at Anderlecht as an 18-year-old. "I have lived in constant fear in recent years and was worried about my family in the Congo," he told Stuttgart's official website. "I wouldn't have dared do this if VfB Stuttgart hadn't become a second home for me where I feel safe." The DFB were not sympathetic however, handing the winger a €30,000 fine and a three-month suspension.

Banned... Silas Katompa Mvumpa

ESM XI
EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

SEASON RANKINGS
Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Jan Oblak (Atletico Madrid)	31
Ederson (Manchester City)	14
Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid)	13
Edouard Mendy (Chelsea)	9
Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich)	4
Gianluigi Donnarumma (Milan)	4
Alisson (Liverpool)	4
David De Gea (Manchester United)	3
Samir Handanovic (Internazionale)	3
Antonio Adan (Sporting)	2
Keylor Navas (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus)	2
Mike Maignan (Lille)	2
Andrea Consigli (Sassuolo)	1
Alex Remiro (Real Sociedad)	1
Koen Casteels (Wolfsburg)	1
David Marshall (Derby County)	1
Hugo Lloris (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Bernd Leno (Arsenal)	1
Bono (Sevilla)	1
Andreas Linde (Molde)	1
Kasper Schmeichel (Leicester City)	1
Marc-Andre Ter Stegen (Barcelona)	1
Geronimo Rulli (Villarreal)	1

DEFENDERS

Ruben Dias (Manchester City)	39
Joao Cancelo (Manchester City)	25
Achraf Hakimi (Internazionale)	16
John Stones (Manchester City)	16
Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid)	14
Theo Hernandez (Milan)	13
David Alaba (Bayern Munich)	12
Antonio Rudiger (Chelsea)	11
Angelino (RB Leipzig)	10
Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea)	9
Ben Chilwell (Chelsea)	9
Mario Hermoso (Atletico Madrid)	9
Stefan Savic (Atletico Madrid)	9
Jordi Alba (Barcelona)	8
Jose Gimenez (Atletico Madrid)	8
Andy Robertson (Liverpool)	7
Milan Skriniar (Internazionale)	7
Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)	6
Robin Gosens (Atalanta)	6
Ferland Mendy (Real Madrid)	6
Eder Militao (Real Madrid)	6
Thiago Silva (Chelsea)	6
Kieran Trippier (Atletico Madrid)	6
Dayot Upamecano (RB Leipzig)	6
Kurt Zouma (Chelsea)	6
Juan Cuadrado (Juventus)	5
Stefan de Vrij (Internazionale)	5
Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund)	5
Benjamin Pavard (Bayern Munich)	5
Danilo (Juventus)	4
Simon Kjaer (Milan)	4
Guillermo Maripan (Monaco)	4
Marquinhos (Paris Saint-Germain)	4
Luke Shaw (Manchester United)	4
Pau Torres (Villarreal)	4
Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid)	3
Matteo Darmian (Internazionale)	3
Jose Fonte (Lille)	3
Reece James (Chelsea)	3
Brandon Mechele (Club Brugge)	3
Pepe (Porto)	3
Cristian Romero (Atalanta)	3
Manuel Akanji (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Marcos Alonso (Chelsea)	2
Zeki Celik (Lille)	2
Sebastian Coates (Sporting)	2
Felipe (Atletico Madrid)	2
Lucas Hernandez (Bayern Munich)	2
Reiniildo Mandava (Lille)	2
Thomas Meunier (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Willi Orban (RB Leipzig)	2
Sergio Reguilon (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Alessio Romagnoli (Milan)	2
Raphael Varane (Real Madrid)	2
Lucas Vazquez (Real Madrid)	2
Kyle Walker (Manchester City)	2
Aaron Wan-Bissaka (Manchester United)	2

Francesco Acerbi (Lazio)	1
Marcos Acuna (Sevilla)	1
Raul Albiol (Villarreal)	1
Toby Alderweireld (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Jordan Amavi (Marseille)	1
Ronald Araujo (Barcelona)	1
Ramy Bensebaini (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Sven Botman (Lille)	1
Dedryck Boyata (Hertha Berlin)	1
Cala (Cadiz)	1
Davide Calabria (Milan)	1
Alphonso Davies (Bayern Munich)	1
Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Dodo (Shakhtar Donetsk)	1
Jean-Kevin Duverne (Brest)	1
Nico Elvedi (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Emerson (Real Betis)	1
Fabinho (Liverpool)	1
Nicolas Gavory (Standard Liege)	1
Vincenzo Grifo (Freiburg)	1
Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Marcel Halstenberg (RB Leipzig)	1
Jonas Hector (Cologne)	1
Filip Helander (Rangers)	1
Michael Keane (Everton)	1
Presnel Kimpembe (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Jules Kounde (Sevilla)	1
Harry Maguire (Manchester United)	1
Faitout Maouassa (Rennes)	1
Kevin Mbabu (Wolfsburg)	1
Chancel Mbemba (Porto)	1
Nuno Mendes (Sporting)	1
Nordi Mukiele (RB Leipzig)	1
Evan N'Dicka (Eintracht Frankfurt)	1
Pedro Porro (Sporting)	1
Zaidu Sanusi (Porto)	1
Leonardo Spinazzola (Roma)	1
Niklas Sule (Bayern Munich)	1
Rafael Toloi (Atalanta)	1
Fikayo Tomori (Milan)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United)	33
Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City)	32
Ilkay Gundogan (Manchester City)	32
Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich)	18
N'Golo Kante (Chelsea)	16
Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur)	14
Luka Modric (Real Madrid)	13
Frenkie de Jong (Barcelona)	11
Toni Kroos (Real Madrid)	10
Nicolo Barella (Internazionale)	9
Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich)	8
Phil Foden (Manchester City)	7
Leon Goretzka (Bayern Munich)	7
Mason Mount (Chelsea)	7
Casemiro (Real Madrid)	6
Mikel Oyarzabal (Real Sociedad)	6
Diogo Jota (Liverpool)	5
Franck Kessie (Milan)	5
Mikel Merino (Real Sociedad)	4
Sergio Oliveira (Porto)	4
Hakan Calhanoglu (Milan)	3
Koke (Atletico Madrid)	3
Marcos Llorente (Atletico Madrid)	3
Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund)	3
Houssem Aouar (Lyon)	2
Kingsley Coman (Bayern Munich)	2
Angel Di Maria (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Karl Toko Ekambi (Lyon)	2
Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Jorginho (Chelsea)	2

TEAM OF THE SEASON

Based on appearances in the monthly ESM XI

OBLAK

HAKIMI | STONES | DIAS | CANCELO

DE BRUYNE | GUNDOGAN | FERNANDES

MESSI | LEWANDOWSKI | BENZEMA

Jan Oblak – Atletico Madrid

John Stones – Manchester City

Ruben Dias – Manchester City

Achraf Hakimi – Internazionale

Joao Cancelo – Manchester City

Ilkay Gundogan – Manchester City

Bruno Fernandes – Manchester United

Kevin De Bruyne – Manchester City

Robert Lewandowski – Bayern Munich

Lionel Messi – Barcelona

Karim Benzema – Real Madrid

Max Kruse (Union Berlin)	2
Riyad Mahrez (Manchester City)	2
Joao Palhinha (Sporting)	2
Paul Pogba (Manchester United)	2
Rodri (Manchester City)	2
James Rodriguez (Everton)	2
David Silva (Real Sociedad)	2
Lars Stindl (Borussia Monchengladbach)	2
Luis Alberto (Lazio)	1
Benjamin Andre (Lille)	1
Leon Bailey (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Jonathan Bamba (Lille)	1
Ismael Bennacer (Milan)	1
Domenico Berardi (Sassuolo)	1
Yannick Carrasco (Atletico Madrid)	1
Marten de Roon (Atalanta)	1
Nabil Fekir (Real Betis)	1
Raul Garcia (Athletic Bilbao)	1
Aleksandr Golovin (Monaco)	1
Papu Gomez (Sevilla)	1
Amine Gouiri (Nice)	1

Jack Grealish (Aston Villa)	1
Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)	1
Jonathan Ikone (Lille)	1
Davy Klaassen (Ajax)	1
Thomas Lemar (Atletico Madrid)	1
Jesse Lingard (West Ham United)	1
Manuel Locatelli (Sassuolo)	1
James Maddison (Leicester City)	1
Ruslan Malinovskyi (Atalanta)	1
Sergej Milinkovic-Savic (Lazio)	1
Henrikh Mkhitaryan (Roma)	1
Dani Olmo (RB Leipzig)	1
Leandro Paredes (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Dani Parejo (Villarreal)	1
Pedri (Barcelona)	1
Marcel Sabitzer (RB Leipzig)	1
Tomas Soucek (West Ham United)	1
Youri Tielemans (Leicester City)	1
Marco Verratti (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Yusuf Yazici (Lille)	1

FORWARDS

Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich)	67
Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	35
Erling Haaland (Borussia Dortmund)	25
Romelu Lukaku (Internazionale)	24
Karim Benzema (Real Madrid)	21
Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain)	21
Luis Suarez (Atletico Madrid)	17
Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Milan)	14
Cristiano Ronaldo (Juventus)	11
Joao Felix (Atletico Madrid)	7
Youssef En-Nesyri (Sevilla)	6
Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur)	6
Kai Havertz (Chelsea)	5
Mohamed Salah (Liverpool)	5
Andre Silva (Eintracht Frankfurt)	5
Burak Yilmaz (Lille)	5
Ciro Immobile (Lazio)	4
Gerard Moreno (Villarreal)	3
Marcus Rashford (Manchester United)	3
Jadon Sancho (Borussia Dortmund)	3

Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City)	2
Neymar (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Pote (Sporting)	2
Jamie Vardy (Leicester City)	2
Iago Aspas (Celta Vigo)	1
Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Everton)	1
Jonathan David (Lille)	1
Memphis Depay (Lyon)	1
Anwar El Ghazi (Aston Villa)	1
Giorgos Giakoumakis (VVV-Venlo)	1
Olivier Giroud (Chelsea)	1
Antoine Griezmann (Barcelona)	1
Josip Ilicic (Atalanta)	1
Lorenzo Insigne (Napoli)	1
Sadio Mane (Liverpool)	1
Alvaro Morata (Juventus)	1
Paul Onuachu (Genk)	1
Leroy Sane (Bayern Munich)	1
Kevin Volland (Monaco)	1
Wout Weghorst (Wolfsburg)	1
Timo Werner (Chelsea)	1
Hakim Ziyech (Chelsea)	1

ESM MEMBERS: *A Bola* (Portugal), *Fanatik* (Turkey), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (Germany), *La Gazzetta dello Sport* (Italy), *Kicker* (Germany), *Marca* (Spain), *Nemzeti Sport* (Hungary), *Sport Express* (Russia), *Sport/Foot* (Belgium), *De Telegraaf* (Netherlands), *TIPS Bladet* (Denmark), *ElfVoetbal* (Netherlands), *World Soccer* (England)

"I'm a defender with the soul of a striker"

Paris Saint-Germain's new signing Achraf Hakimi

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

IN

EUROPE

Paris Saint-Germain completed the free transfers of **GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA** from Milan, Liverpool's **GINI WIJNALDUM** and **SERGIO RAMOS** from Real Madrid. Elsewhere, **GIANLUIGI BUFFON** returned to first club Parma, **HAKAN CALHANOGLU** left Milan for rivals Inter, **KEVIN-PRINCE BOATENG** re-joined Hertha Berlin and **YOUSSOUF SABALY** moved to Real Betis.

MAURIZIO SARRI took over as Lazio coach, replacing **SIMONE INZAGHI** who in turned replaced Antonio Conte at Inter, while Eibar re-hired **GAIZKA GARITANO**.

Celtic appointed ex-Australia coach **ANGE POSTECOGLU**, Dundee United promoted **THOMAS COURTS** to head coach, while Rangers signed midfielder **JOHN LUNDSTRAM** on a free transfer.

Held up... Memphis' Barcelona move has complications

More Barca chaos

Barcelona completed the free transfer of Memphis Depay from Lyon; however they may not be able to register him until they bring their wage bill below the La Liga cap. Junior Firpo (Leeds United), Jean-Clair Todibo (Nice), Konrad de la Fuente (Marseille) and Juan Miranda (Real Betis) are among those to have left already, with more expected to follow.

Everton, Tottenham Hotspur, Wolves and Crystal Palace all appointed new managers: **RAFAEL BENITEZ**, **NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO**, **BRUNO LAGE** and **PATRICK VIEIRA**, respectively, while **SCOTT PARKER** joined Bournemouth after leaving Fulham, and **VALERIEN ISMAEL** left Barnsley for West Brom.

Four former England internationals completed free transfers: Fenerbahce snapped up **STEVEN CAULKER** from Alanyaspor, **DANNY ROSE** joined Watford from Tottenham, **RYAN BERTRAND** left Southampton for Leicester City and **ASHLEY YOUNG** returned to Aston Villa.

Arsenal Women completed the signing of the WSL's former all-time top scorer **NIKITA PARRIS** from Lyon, with Dutch midfielder **DANIELLE VAN DE DONK** going in the opposite direction.

SUMMER 2021 LATEST MAJOR TRANSFERS

Staying... Fikayo Tomori

France U21 ace... Boubakary Soumare

Villa new boy... Emiliano Buendia

£73m	**Jadon Sancho**	Borussia Dortmund to Manchester United
£51.3m	**Achraf Hakimi**	Internazionale to Paris Saint-Germain
£30m	**Fikayo Tomori***	Chelsea to Milan
£30m	**Emiliano Buendia**	Norwich to Aston Villa
£23.1m	**Nicolas Gonzalez**	Stuttgart to Fiorentina
£23m	**Patson Daka**	Red Bull Salzburg to Leicester City
£19.8m	**Andre Silva**	E. Frankfurt to RB Leipzig
£18m	**Enock Mwepu**	Red Bull Salzburg to Brighton
£17.3m	**Gerson**	Flamengo to Marseille
£17.2m	**Juan Musso**	Udinese to Atalanta
£17m	**Boubakar Soumare**	Lille to Leicester City
£16.4m	**Angelino***	Manchester City to RB Leipzig
£16.3m	**Matteo Politano***	Internazionale to Napoli
£16.3m	**Josko Gvardiol**	Dinamo Zagreb to RB Leipzig
£15m	**Pedrinho**	Benfica to Shakhtar Donetsk
£14.6m	**Loic Bade**	Lens to Rennes
£13.8m	**Danilo***	Porto to Paris Saint-Germain
£13.8m	**Mohamed Simakan**	Strasbourg to RB Leipzig
£13.5m	**Benjamin Henrichs***	Monaco to RB Leipzig
£13m	**Junior Firpo**	Barcelona to Leeds United
£13m	**Juan Foyth***	Tottenham to Villarreal
£12.9m	**Gregor Kobel**	Stuttgart to B. Dortmund
£12m	**Nathan Collins**	Stoke City to Burnley
£11m	**Jack Harrison***	Manchester City to Leeds United
£10.3m	**Romain Perraud**	Brest to Southampton
£10.3m	**Marlon**	Sassuolo to Shakhtar Donetsk
£9.4m	**Milot Rashica**	Werder Bremen to Norwich
£8m	**Ben Gibson**	Burnley to Norwich City
£7m	**Angus Gunn**	Southampton to Norwich City
£4.5m	**Yerson Mosquera**	Atletico Nacional to Wolves
£4m	**Victor Moses***	Chelsea to Spartak Moscow
£3.5m	**Emmanuel Dennis**	Club Brugge to Watford

*(*Loan deal made permanent)*

LOANS

Francisco Trincao
Barcelona to Wolves
Matteo Guendouzi
Arsenal to Marseille
Cengiz Under
Roma to Marseille
Billy Gilmour
Chelsea to Norwich
Santiago Rodriguez
Montevideo City to New York City
Jose Macias
Chivas to Getafe
Alexander Nubel
Bayern Munich to Monaco
Wylan Cyprien
Parma to Nantes
Kevin Strootman
Marseille to Cagliari
Guus Til
Spartak Moscow to Feyenoord
Vitolo
Atletico Madrid to Getafe
Taylor Harwood-Bellis
Manchester City to Anderlecht
Deni Juric
Dinamo Zagreb to Sibenik
Xavier Amaechi
Hamburg to Bolton Wanderers
Konstantinos Mavropanos
Arsenal to Stuttgart

"Such an important part of the club. Never once turned down any of the strikers for extra shooting practice no matter how hard you had been training…always put the team first"

Ian Wright pays tribute to his former Arsenal team-mate Alan Miller

Appointments, sackings and loans

EUROPE

OUT

Real Madrid midfielder **TONI KROOS** announced his international retirement following Germany's 2-0 defeat to England at Euro 2020.

Final game... Toni Kroos at Wembley

EZGJAN ALIOSKI, **ANDRE AYEW** and **MARCO STIEPERMANN** left Leeds United, Swansea City and Norwich City respectively following the expiry of their contracts.

Just two days after the Netherlands were knocked out of Euro 2020, head coach **FRANK DE BOER** parted company with the *Oranje*.

GENNARO GATTUSO exited as Fiorentina coach after just 23 days over a dispute regarding transfers.

ASIA

Former Brazil and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder **PAULINHO** announced his departure from Chinese Super League side Guangzhou Evergrande after six seasons at the club, with a year at Barcelona sandwiched in between.

Guangzhou goodbye... Paulinho

Slovenian **SRECKO KATANEC** stepped down from his role as Iraq coach after reportedly going six months without being paid.

OBITUARIES

Tribute...Italy players wore black armbands versus Wales in memory of Boniperti

Giampiero BONIPERTI
(1928-2021)

A true giant of Italian football, Boniperti won 38 international caps – 24 as captain – and played at two World Cups, alongside a record-breaking career with Juventus. Having made his Italy debut aged 19 in 1947, the forward was the leading light of the post-war era for both club and country. Boniperti captained Italy at the 1954 World Cup, and helped Juve to five Serie A titles and two Italian Cups. Alongside Wales legend John Charles and Argentine forward Omar Sivori, he formed a deadly attacking trident. He retired in 1961 with an all-time high 179 goals for the club – a record that stood until Alessandro Del Piero overtook it in 2006 – before going on to become president in 1971. Under his reign, Juve won 16 trophies in 19 years, including the 1985 European Cup.

Alan MILLER
(1970-2021)

After starting out at Arsenal, where he won the FA Youth Cup, FA Cup, League Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup, goalkeeper Miller went on to play over 200 league games for a variety of clubs including Middlesbrough, Blackburn Rovers and West Bromwich Albion.

John ANGUS
(1938-2021)

In a 17-year career at Turf Moor, Angus made 521 appearances for Burnley – only two players have played more.

NENO
(1962-2021)

The former Portugal goalkeeper won three Portuguese Cups and three league titles in two spells at Benfica, and also played over 100 league games in three spells for Vitoria Guimaraes.

Tubilandu NDIMBI
(1948-2021)

Ndimbi was the back-up goalkeeper for Zaire (now DR Congo) at the 1974 World Cup, coming off the bench in a 9-0 defeat to Yugoslavia.

Luis DEL SOL
(1935-2021)

Del Sol was part of the Real Madrid side that destroyed Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup final, starting in the 7-3 victory. He won back-to-back league titles in Madrid before leaving to become Juventus' first-ever Spanish player. Del Sol also scored three goals in 16 appearances for Spain, and was part of their Euros-winning squad of 1964.

Ludwig MULLER
(1941-2021)

The six-cap West Germany defender won three Bundesligas: one in 1968 with Nuremberg, and two with Borussia Monchengladbach in 1970 and 1971.

Inge DANIELSSON
(1941-2021)

The Sweden international fired Ajax to the Eredivisie in 1968, scoring nine goals after arriving, then helped them to the European Cup final a year later with four goals in the quarter-finals.

YOO SANG-CHUL
(1971-2021)

In South Korea's run to the semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup, few players had a greater role than Yoo. Named in the Team of the Tournament, he started every game and scored against Poland in South Korea's first-ever World Cup win. Despite interest from Barcelona, the midfielder spent his career in Asia, winning league titles at Ulsan Horang-i and Yokohama F. Marinos in Japan.

Legend...Yoo during the 2002 World Cup

OVERVIEW

FOOTBALL'S COMING TO ROME

Italy restore their place at Europe's top table with second-ever Euros victory

In the end, football did not come home; at least not yet. England fell down where they have fallen before, namely in a penalty shootout. In the end, too, the best team of the tournament and the best team of the night won the Euro 2020 final, as Italy wrapped up their second-ever European Championship trophy, following their 1968 triumph in Rome.

For many observers, Italy v England was the dream final: a clash between arguably the two most in-form teams of the tournament, and most definitely a clash between two great footballing nations. Nor did the final disappoint.

Champions...Italy's Giorgio Chiellini gets his hands on the Henri Delaunay trophy

URO 2020
ITALY

Italy's penalty shootout win climaxed a dramatic night when fortunes fluctuated dramatically in an utterly riveting game.

The final got off to an explosive start with Luke Shaw putting England ahead after only two minutes, as he drifted in on the left side of the area to brilliantly half-volley home a clever Kieran Trippier cross, finishing a counter-attacking move started by Shaw himself and skilfully orchestrated by England captain Harry Kane.

In hindsight, England's brilliant start may have been their undoing. As Italy wobbled for 20 minutes, England failed to increase their advantage. By the end of the first half, Italy had regained their composure, begun to dominate play and were clearly not out of the contest.

A 57th-minute goalmouth scramble from a corner saw veteran Italian defender Leonardo Bonucci slot home a close-range equaliser that was richly deserved. This was a period in the match when Italian dominance might well have prompted a normal-time winner.

Yet Italy failed to push home their advantage. After two extra-time halves when two tired teams could give no more, we were back to the drama of the shootout. Like the match itself, it first seemed to go England's way as Andrea Belotti was the first to miss.

However, the old English penalty curse struck as Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka all failed to score, with goalkeeper Gigi Donnarumma saving both of the latter pair's efforts to win himself not only the Player of the Tournament award but also, and more importantly, Euro 2020.

Needless to say, the victory was greeted with nationwide, all-night rejoicing. This win came with a massive sense of national relief, following on the infamous "night of the Apocalypse": the November 2017 evening when legendary goalkeeper Gigi Buffon cried his eyes out on live TV, minutes after Italy had failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Buffon, a 2006 World Cup winner, was giving vivid expression to the sense of national humiliation engendered by Italy not qualifying for the finals for the first time in almost 60 years. In a country where football matters more than most, this really was "Apocalypse Now".

In a perfect serendipity, that relief has been twinned with another renaissance-cum-resurrection for Italy, one that has come in the wake of a much greater, more deadly Apocalypse. The COVID-19 pandemic has, thus far, claimed the lives of more than 128,000 Italians.

To some extent, this Italian team's success has plugged itself into a much needed feel-good moment, one that represents a partial exorcism of the coronavirus trauma. Player after player during the tournament dedicated their success "to all those who have suffered and lost loved ones because of COVID".

In football terms, too, Italians saw something that they had not seen from their national team before, namely a team that played intense, attacking, one-touch football – an Italian take on tiki-taka.

Clearly, one man, 56-year-old coach Roberto Mancini, is responsible for this Copernican revolution. From the moment, he took over the Italian team in the summer of 2018, in the wake of the Apocalypse, Mancini made it clear that he wanted to lead Italy down a new road. He wanted his side to defend high up the field, to play fast, one-touch football, to take the game to the opposition and, above all, to "enjoy" their football.

In his squad building, Mancini has been open-minded, searching high and low and giving debuts to 35 players. In one of his first squads, in September 2018, he summoned Nicolo Zaniolo to the national squad before the guy had played even a single Serie A game, setting the tone for the brave approach that was to follow.

In his team selections at this tournament, too, he was equally open-minded, not hesitating to bring in two Sassuolo players, Manuel Locatelli and Domenico Berardi in the first round, in the latter case overriding his own previous first choices, with Berardi brought on instead of Federico Chiesa.

Mancini, himself a sumptuous player who won a Serie A title in 1991 with Sampdoria, has focused on players who are comfortable on the ball; players who, as Italians put it, have *piedi buoni* (good feet).

As a successful coach who has won league titles in both Serie A (with Inter) and in the Premier League (Manchester City), he also knows about the need to create a tight-knit unit, a successful team spirit, the so-called "*Gruppo*".

In a fascinating, four-part documentary, broadcast on the eve of Euro 2020, Italian state broadcaster RAI offered a behind-the-scenes glimpse of life in the *Azzurri* camp over the last year. From Mancini's half-time team talks in front of the whiteboard, to the song that any new squad member has to sing around the dinner table on his first night at Coverciano (the historic Federation Training Centre in Florence), the sense of team spirit in the making was all around.

Furthermore, Mancini surrounded himself with old friends and companions in arms such as Gianluca Vialli (delegation head), Lele Oriali (team manager), Attilio Lombardo and Fausto Salsano (assistant coaches). No coincidence that three of these four played with him in that 1991 Sampdoria side, while Oriali worked alongside him during four highly-successful seasons as coach of Internazionale (2004-2008).

Vialli's presence also brings an added poignancy. He and Mancini first met up as aspiring 15-year-olds (both born in 1964) at the

National hero... Roberto Mancini holds the trophy

Equaliser...Bonucci tucks home from close range at Wembley

THINGS WE LEARNED

1 VAR CAN WORK
The simple approach of limited interference, a dedicated assistant for offsides, and a reluctance to overturn marginal calls made for an effective blueprint of how to use the Video Assistant Referee.

2 LIVERPOOL'S LOSS IS PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN'S GAIN
Netherlands captain Gini Wijnaldum scored three times – surpassing Marco van Basten's *Oranje* goal tally in the process – from a more advanced role than he performed at Anfield. Clearly, PSG have acquired an exceptional all-rounder.

3 32-TEAM EUROS IS COMING
The 24-team format is untidy and largely removes group-stage jeopardy, while UEFA's insatiable appetite for more games means there is no chance of going back down to 16, so expansion is inevitable. Such a move would require an overhaul of international football in Europe, where qualification is already a formality for many leading nations.

Paul Pogba...time for a change?

4 HAYES IS A HIT
ITV viewers in the UK were treated to a tactical masterclass when Emma Hayes was co-commentating, making the Chelsea Women's manager one of the most popular punditry choices of the Euros.

5 MULTI-HOST EUROS IS UNFAIR
Hosting the tournament across multiple cities had its positives, but it was no coincidence that all four semi-finalists played their group games at home. The odds were stacked too heavily in the hosts' favour: ironic given UEFA's decision to get rid of the away goals rule for club competitions during the Euros.

6 BACK OFF BAKU
Staging games in Baku proved to be a poor decision by UEFA. Not only did it put the teams that played there at a real disadvantage with excessive additional travelling, the oppressive heat and lack of atmosphere made all four of the games played in Azerbaijan attritional and forgettable.

7 POGBA NEEDS TO MOVE
Paul Pogba was a candidate for Player of the Tournament before France's shock exit. Yet after five years in England it is clear that he is unlikely to bring that form back to Old Trafford. It would be better for all if he were to take his undoubted ability to another league instead.

Federation centre in Coverciano. They have remained close friends (and sometimes team-mates) ever since. Right now, Vialli has bravely brought with him "an undesired travel companion", namely pancreatic cancer, contracted four years ago. It would be nice to think that this great victory has seen off his unwanted fellow traveller.

When Vialli is heard talking to the Italian squad at Coverciano, it becomes clear that, for this management team, wearing the Italian shirt is not a matter of life and death, it is something much more important, as Bill Shankly might have said.

Italy's win at Euro 2020 was the triumphant conclusion to a glorious tournament campaign that began well and finished better. Italy turned up for these finals, with an atypically confident swagger and a 27-match long unbeaten run. Only one question hovered in the air: Italy might have beaten Armenia, Bosnia and Finland in qualifying, but could they do it against Europe's elite?

An explosive 3-0 win over Turkey in the competition's inaugural game in Rome suggested so. Italy power-hosed their opponents off the pitch, forcing them into an utterly defensive first half in which they did not manage a single shot on the Italian goal or even win a corner, while the final match statistics returned a 61 per cent possession advantage for Italy.

That all important start went from good to better when Italy gave Switzerland the same treatment in their second game, emphatically drubbing them 3-0. Further down the road, of course, that same Swiss side eliminated world champions France.

Eight changes for their next game (they were already qualified for the second round) did not stop Italy comfortably disposing with Wales, 1-0 on a hot evening in Rome. Somewhat surprisingly, it was in their second-round tie, won 2-1 against Austria, that Italy encountered their first difficulty.

Only the VAR kept them in the tournament following a 64th-minute, disallowed goal from Austrian striker Marko Arnautovic. In the end, Italy wrapped it up in the first half of extra-time, thanks to goals from substitutes Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina.

Italian class was then underlined in a 2-1 normal-time win against Belgium in the quarter-finals and a 4-2 shootout defeat of Spain in the semi-finals. In both games, Italy's ability to hang on and suffer, having set themselves up for a win, augured well for the final. More importantly, the question had been flipped – now, it was a case of whether Europe's elite could cope with Italy, rather than the other way around.

Il Gruppo...Mancini and Vialli embrace the injured Spinazzola

Player of the Tournament...imposing goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma

In particular, we had always wondered about the physical durability of this lightweight Italy. Yet, against both the FIFA-ranked No.1s, and then a Spanish side playing easily its best football of the tournament, they had hung on in there; admittedly not without resorting, at times, to a much more traditional Italian defensive game.

The mental and physical resolution showed in both those games was the good news. The severe Achilles heel injury suffered by left-back Leonardo Spinazzola was the bad news. In keeping with the sense of "*Il Gruppo*", "Spina" was at Wembley, on crutches, to see his team-mates write another fabulous page in Italian football history. It may not be the last.

Paddy Agnew

A TO Z

A is for Atmosphere, as football fans returned to stadiums across Europe, most notably packing out the Puskas Arena in Budapest and Copenhagen's Parken Stadium.

B is for Bold. The tournament average of 2.78 goals per game was the most since 1976.

C is for Continental. This was the first European Championship held in cities all across Europe.

D is for Denmark. Their support for Christian Eriksen and wave of emotion on going all the way to the semi-finals provided a lasting memory.

E is for Endurance. Concerns over fatigue were cast aside as players managed to put on a brilliant show after gruelling domestic seasons.

F is for Finland. The tournament debutants almost qualified from their group thanks to Joel Pohjanpalo's winning header against Denmark.

G is for Goran Pandev. The 37-year-old was given a guard of honour after retiring from international football having helped North Macedonia qualify for their first tournament.

Denmark...players and fans celebrate their 4-1 victory over Russia

H is for Hungary, who almost qualified from the "group of death" and only trailed in games against France, Germany and Portugal for a total of six minutes.

I is for Inverted full-back, epitomised by right-footed left-backs Joakim Maehle and Leonardo Spinazzola.

J is for Jadon Sancho. The Englishman didn't play too many minutes but his big move to Manchester United made headlines.

K is for Karim Benzema. The France striker was surprisingly brought out of international exile for the finals, and proved an upgrade on World Cup-winning Olivier Giroud.

L is for Lewandowski, who finally lit up a major international tournament scoring three goals despite Poland's poor showing.

M is for Modric, and his memorable wondergoal with the outside of his right foot against Scotland.

N is for Nil Points. Turkey were considered dark horses but joined North Macedonia as the only team to fail to win a single point in the group stage.

Finland...the Euro debutants narrowly missed out on knockout-stage qualification

Outspoken...Germany's Leon Goretzka celebrates scoring against Hungary

Nil points...Turkey's European Championship campaign was a total disaster

S is for Schick, whose strike from the halfway line for the Czech Republic against Scotland had the goal of the tournament wrapped up early.

T is for Third. The 24-team format meant some teams finishing third in their group had a nervous wait before learning their fate.

U is for Underdogs. Switzerland made it to the quarter-finals after knocking out favourites and world champions France.

V is for VAR, which was considered a success due to its no-fuss implementation.

W is for Wembley, the London venue hosted the latter stages and witnessed that epic semi-final between Spain and Italy.

X is for Xhaka. The temperamental midfielder often divides opinion but is a key player for Switzerland.

Youth...Poland's 17-year-old record-breaking midfielder Kacper Kozlowski

Y is for Youth. Jude Bellingham's record as the youngest-ever Euros player lasted exactly six days before being beaten by Poland wonderkid Kacper Kozlowski.

Z is for Zuber who assisted three goals in one game for Switzerland against Turkey.

Karim Benzema...out of the international wilderness with four goals at the Euros

O is for Outspoken. Germany midfielder Leon Goretzka admirably spoke out in support of LGBT rights and anti-racism.

P is for Pedri, Spain's 18-year-old midfield pass-master. The Barcelona boy wonder's outstanding performances drew comparisons with Andres Iniesta.

Q is for Quick. It was a Euros for speedsters, with Hungary's Loic Nego and Leonardo Spinazzola of Italy jointly-topping the charts with a sprint speed of 33.8 km/h.

R is for Ronaldo. The Portugal star became the top scorer in European Championship history, taking his overall tally to 14.

Ronaldo...Cristiano is now the European Championship's all-time record goalscorer

PLAYERS OF THE TOURNAMENT

Penalty-shootout hero...Donnarumma saves Bukayo Saka's spot-kick in the final

GOALKEEPER

GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA
(Italy)
The giant keeper exuded calmness and dominance. Made an amazing save from Kevin De Bruyne in the last eight, and was a colossus in the shootout wins v Spain and England. *Honourable Mentions:* **Yann Sommer** (Switzerland) – heroic against France and Spain; **Kasper Schmeichel** (Denmark) – kept out Harry Maguire with one of the saves of the tournament; **Jordan Pickford** (England) – set a new European Championship record for five straight clean sheets.

Dynamite...Denzel Dumfries was the Netherlands' standout player

RIGHT-BACK

DENZEL DUMFRIES
(Netherlands)
The PSV wing-back became only the second player to score in his first two games for the Netherlands at the Euros and was absolutely outstanding going forward. *Honourable Mentions:* **Kyle Walker** (England) – atypically offered more defensively than in attack; **Joshua Kimmich** (Germany) – returning to his right-back roots; **Stefan Lainer** (Austria) – offered plenty of threat going forward.

CENTRE-BACKS

LEONARDO BONUCCI
(Italy)
Was confused for a fan in his side's celebrations against Spain, but there was no mistaking his quality on the pitch. His distribution and defensive astuteness were crucial in keeping Italy so stable.

HARRY MAGUIRE
(England)
Missed England's first two games, but was immense on his return and changed the dynamics of their defence. His aerial dominance and progression with the ball were key. *Honourable Mentions:* **Simon Kjaer** (Denmark) – showed commendable leadership during the Eriksen incident and overall; **Andreas Christensen** (Denmark) – hit a rocket against Russia and was just as able against Wales as a holding midfielder.

LEFT-BACK

LUKE SHAW
(England)
Was renamed "Shawberto Carlos" by England fans after providing an assist against Germany and two more against Ukraine. Was also key in stopping counter-attacks. *Honourable Mentions:* **Leonardo Spinazzola** (Italy) – arguably Italy's best player until his injury against Belgium; **Joakim Maehle** (Denmark) – got goals and assists but found Raheem Sterling hard to cope with in the semi-final.

MIDFIELDERS

JORGINHO
(Italy)
With a pass success rate over 90%, he orchestrated games by making himself available and keeping the ball moving. Scored the match-winning penalty against Spain.

PEDRI
(Spain)
La Roja's youngest-ever player at a major international tournament played with an assuredness way beyond his years. Huge potential.

Talent...Spain wonderkid Pedri has a huge future ahead of him

Calm...Jorginho celebrates after scoring his ice-cool penalty v Spain

PIERRE-EMILE HOJBJERG
(Denmark)
The midfield protector broke down in tears on the final whistle of their quarter-final, and his spirit and fight typified his nation at the Euros.
Honourable Mentions: **Kalvin Phillips** (England) – energetic and commited to the cause; **Paul Pogba** (France) – showed his class; **Sergio Busquets** (Spain) – proving that age is just a number.

FORWARDS

EMIL FORSBERG
(Sweden)
Scored in three of his side's four games from a left-wing position, but floated around the pitch. Also struck the woodwork twice in the round of 16 defeat to Ukraine.

RAHEEM STERLING
(England)
Silenced his critics with goals and some electric peformances. Was influential in getting England to the final by winning the penalty against Denmark in extra-time.

PATRIK SCHICK
(Czech Republic)
Scored the longest goal in Euros history, bagging five in total.
Honourable Mentions: **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal) – for breaking the Euros record for goals; **Andriy Yarmolenko** (Ukraine) – showed off his flair and fine left foot; **Mikkel Damsgaard** (Denmark) – really grew into the tournament; **Federico Chiesa** (Italy) – some eye-catching cameos, wonderful goals and a real attacking menace in the final.

Super Sterling...the England forward was a threat all tournament

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

DENZEL DUMFRIES *Netherlands* | **LEONARDO BONUCCI** *Italy* | **GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA** *Italy* | **HARRY MAGUIRE** *England* | **LUKE SHAW** *England* | **JORGINHO** *Italy*

PEDRI *Spain* | **RAHEEM STERLING** *England* | **PATRIK SCHICK** *Czech Republic* | **EMIL FORSBERG** *Sweden* | **PIERRE-EMILE HOJBJERG** *Denmark*

TEAM BY TEAM *group-stage exit*

TURKEY ▲

Widely tipped as dark horses, Turkey were one of the most disappointing teams at the tournament. Goals were expected from Lille's Ligue 1-winning striker Burak Yilmaz, but the 35-year-old failed to find the net while his team-mates only did so once, losing all three of their group games. Even with their veteran frontman, Turkey had the youngest squad in the tournament, but youthful vigour failed to shine through. They limped out with the worst record in the group stage thanks to a goal difference of minus seven, yet coach Senol Gunes has refused to resign.

FINLAND ▼

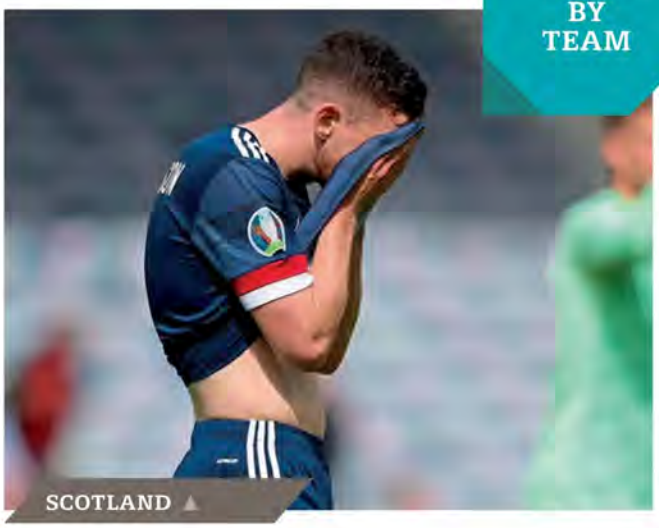
Taking part in their first-ever major international tournament, the achievement for Finland was just getting here in the first place. Joel Pohjanpalo's goal against Denmark gave the Nordic nation their first tournament goal and victory, but there wasn't to be a second of either. They did finish third in the group on head-to-head goal difference, ahead of eastern neighbours Russia, and were the best-ranked of the third-placed teams not to qualify for the last 16; a more than decent debut showing.

RUSSIA ▶

A crushing 4-1 defeat to Denmark in the final group game ended any hopes Stanislav Cherchesov and his side had of progressing. A 3-0 defeat to group favourites Belgium in the opener at home in Saint Petersburg had already damaged their overall goal difference and perhaps morale, too. Aleksei Miranchuk's excellent goal in their only win, against Finland, arrived as a result of some great hold-up play from considerable captain Artem Dzyuba and was a superbly-taken finish from the Atalanta man, but such moments were too few and far between.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Despite finishing bottom of their group without a point to their name, North Macedonia didn't look out of place in their first major tournament. By the end of the group stage, they had taken the same number of shots on goal as Belgium, and more than France, Portugal and England, but their problem was that too few hit the target and only two found the back of the net. Goran Pandev announced his retirement from international football during the tournament, netting in a 3-1 defeat to Austria, but in Eljif Elmas and Darko Churlinov they have two potential stars of the future.



SCOTLAND

Callum McGregor's equaliser at Hampden Park in the key game against Croatia provided momentary hope for Scotland, but their opponents went on to turn on the same style that saw them reach the 2018 World Cup final. An unfortunate loss to the Czech Republic in their opening game meant Scotland were up against it from the off and a draw with England meant everything was riding on that final game, which they lost 3-1. There is plenty of promise in Steve Clarke's team, who were playing at their first Euros since 1996, but they lacked a cutting edge.

POLAND

Poland went into their final group game against Sweden with a win likely to secure qualification as a best third-placed team. Having hit the crossbar twice in the same passage of play in the first half, Robert Lewandowski still bagged a brace which took him to three for the tournament overall, but it wasn't enough as Paulo Sousa's side fell to a disappointing 3-2 defeat. Ultimately, a 2-1 loss to Slovakia in the opening game left them with too much to do, and though Lewandowski was able to score multiple goals at a major international tournament for the first time, his side lacked the solidity needed to progress.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia went into the tournament buoyed by the return to fitness of the Mohawked Marek Hamsik, the team's 33-year-old captain and talisman. This led to a promising start versus Poland in which Hamsik assisted Milan Skriniar's wonderful volley to give them a surprise 2-1 victory. It was, however, to be their last goal of the tournament. A 1-0 defeat to Sweden followed before they turned in an absolutely pitiful performance against Spain, suffering a 5-0 drubbing against a side that had struggled to impress up to that point. Their final display was littered with errors and saw the nation exit on a real low.

HUNGARY

The Group F underdogs made sure the "group of death" went to the death. Having twice taken the lead in their final game against Germany, it looked like Hungary might pull off a monumental upset. At one point, Marco Rossi's side were going through in second when France took the lead versus Portugal, but Leon Goretzka's late goal sealed their fate. This solid showing came without arguably their best player, Dominik Szoboszlai, who was ruled out on the eve of the Euros. The future looks promising.

TEAM BY TEAM *round-of-16 exit*

WALES

It was another tournament of hope for Wales, even though they were unable to repeat 2016's heroic run to the semi-finals. An Aaron Ramsey and Gareth Bale inspired win against Turkey was enough to see them through as Group A runners-up behind Italy. COVID-19 restrictions meant few Wales fans could attend the last-16 fixture against Denmark in Amsterdam, where a 4-0 defeat was a cruel way to end another promising tournament. Attention now turns to qualifying for their first World Cup since 1958.

AUSTRIA

A second-place finish in Group C meant Austria were handed a tough last-16 tie against an in-form Italy. Franco Foda's team were resolute, taking the game to extra-time before the Italians turned on the style. This tournament can still be considered a success, especially as it was the first time Austria have reached the knockout stages. Right-back Stefan Lainer stood out, while 21-year-old attacker Christoph Baumgartner confirmed his status as one of his nation's brightest prospects.

NETHERLANDS

A perfect record in the group stage suggested coach Frank de Boer had found a way to make the Netherlands tick after they had failed to qualify for the two previous major tournaments. It wasn't to last, though. Things began to take a turn for the worse after Matthijs de Ligt was sent off for handling the ball when Czech Republic striker Patrik Schick was otherwise clean though on goal. De Boer failed to reorganise his ten men, who conceded goals from a set-piece and a misplaced header. He left his job just two days later.

PORTUGAL

Portugal were handed the unenviable task of facing Belgium in the last 16 having finished third in Group F. Although they held France in a compelling 2-2 draw and were the only side to beat Hungary, their 4-2 capitulation to Germany did suggest that defending their crown may prove beyond Cristiano Ronaldo and Co. And so it proved: the holders sent 24 shots in the vague direction of Thibaut Courtois' goal in that knockout game, but the fact that only five found the target summed up their attacking play. Renato Sanches offered much-needed drive, but too many of his more experienced team-mates failed to deliver in the 1-0 defeat.

CROATIA

Led by the experienced and still hugely talented midfield maestro Luka Modric, Croatia always pose a threat in tournament football. The 35-year-old scored a goal of the tournament contender in the 3-1 win against Scotland at Hampden Park, struck expertly with the outside of his boot to help Croatia through to a last 16 meeting with Spain. They played their part in that epic knockout round tie, with Mario Pasalic's late equaliser taking the game to 3-3 and extra-time, but the superior depth of the Spanish bench ultimately told and, as the Croats tired, they conceded twice.

FRANCE

Having gone a goal down after just 15 minutes against Switzerland, it was soon evident Didier Deschamps had sent his team out on the wrong foot and in the wrong formation, deploying a back three for the first time at the finals. A Hugo Lloris penalty save provided a boost, and a two-minute brace from Karim Benzema, plus a Paul Pogba worldy, had France momentarily living up to expectations. But the biggest of collapses soon ensued: *Les Bleus* ultimately exited the tournament when star man Kylian Mbappe's spot-kick was saved by goalkeeper Yann Sommer, but their problems run deeper than one penalty miss. The pre-tournament favourites won just one of their four games.

GERMANY

At one stage it looked like Germany might suffer the unthinkable ignominy of exiting at the group stage – just as they had done at the last World Cup. A late Leon Goretzka goal against Hungary spared those particular blushes, but it only delayed the inevitable for Joachim Low's side. They were knocked out by England following a disappointing display that summed up their current situation. Germany will try to forget their last two tournaments and look forward to making the most of their talented side in a new era under Hansi Flick.

SWEDEN

A solid-looking Sweden finished unbeaten in Group E ahead of heavyweights Spain. Winger Emil Forsberg was their standout player, and his goal against Ukraine in the last 16 took him to four for the tournament. He hit the foot of the post and the crossbar in the same game, with Sweden inches away from reaching the quarter-finals. They were undone by the latest of late goals from Artem Dovbyk in added time in extra-time having had defender Marcus Danielson sent off; an unfortunate end to a decent tournament.

TEAM BY TEAM *Quarter-final exit*

SWITZERLAND

At 3-1 down with 15 minutes remaining in their round of 16 game against France, it seemed Switzerland would exit as expected. However a second goal from Haris Seferovic and a superbly-taken 90th-minute strike from Mario Gavranovic levelled the scores and changed their tournament completely. After the turnaround, they went on to win on penalties in a victory that may well go down as their greatest-ever in tournament football. However, they were unable to repeat the trick in the quarters against Spain, where a red card and some poor penalty-taking didn't help their cause. Wing-back Steven Zuber topped the assist charts and Xherdan Shaqiri netted three nice goals, while Yann Sommer was one of the tournament's outstanding goalkeepers.

CZECH REPUBLIC

It was a tournament to remember for Patrik Schick who led the line for the Czechs and – at the time of their exit – the tournament's goalscoring charts too, tied with Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo on five goals. The Bayer Leverkusen forward scored in every game bar a 1-0 group-stage defeat to England, including the goal of the tournament from the halfway line against Scotland. Jaroslav Silhavy's side can look back on a positive showing and a memorable win in the round of 16 against the Netherlands before exiting to an impressive Denmark outfit in the quarter-finals.

BELGIUM

After cruising through qualifying, topping their group with a perfect record and defeating Portugal in the last 16, Roberto Martinez's side came unstuck against an Italian side as stubborn as they were talented. Going into the tournament, pressure was high on the world's top-ranked side, with suggestions that their Golden Generation is coming to an end; pressure that will undoubtedly increase at next year's World Cup. 19-year-old winger Jeremy Doku, so impressive in the defeat to Italy, showed that more talent is coming through, while Romelu Lukaku led the line throughout the tournament in a way few others can. The Internazionle striker will still be in his prime in Qatar, and he will need to be if Belgium are to finally land the success their immense talent deserves.

UKRAINE

After a spirited comeback in spite of defeat in their opener against the Netherlands, a single win in the group stage against North Macedonia was just enough for Andriy Shevchenko's side to progress to the last 16. Once there, they secured a dramatic – albeit somewhat fortunate – win against ten-man Sweden thanks to an Artem Dovbyk goal in added time in extra-time. Manchester City's Oleksandr Zinchenko was a key player and scored an impressive half-volley against the Swedes, but Ukraine weren't able to recover in their quarter-final against England after Harry Kane's fourth-minute strike undid their gameplan.

SEMI-FINALISTS: DENMARK

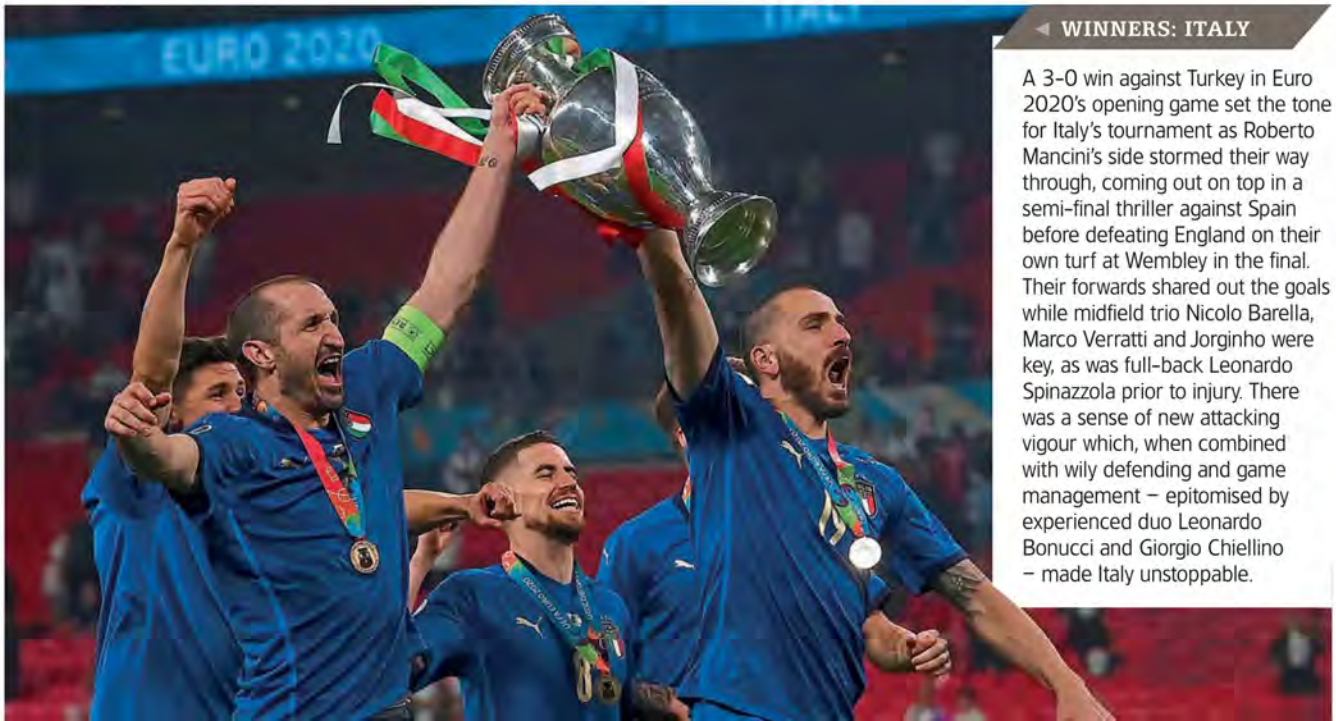
While the semi-finals proved to be a step too far for the Danes, they undoubtedly won the hearts of Europe on the journey there. It was certainly an emotional ride following Christian Eriksen's collapse in their opening game against Finland, but how his team-mates dealt with the situation as Eriksen was given CPR on the pitch, then regrouped after losses to Finland and Belgium will be part of this impressive team's legacy. Kasper Hjulmand's side weren't merely outsiders grabbing a lucky result here or there, they were a genuinely good team that almost upset England at Wembley after the outstanding 21-year-old Mikkel Damsgaard became the first player to score against them.

SEMI-FINALISTS: SPAIN

Luis Enrique's side won only one of their six matches in 90 minutes – a 5-0 drubbing of Slovakia – but managed to dominate games, averaging more possession than any other team. They got the job done up until a dramatic semi-final versus Italy where Dani Olmo and Alvaro Morata failed to convert in the penalty shootout; the latter's decisive miss encapsulating a tournament in which he failed to provide the clinical edge that his side so badly needed. Nevertheless, there are encouraging signs that future stars such as Pedri, Ferran Torres and Olmo (plus the absent Ansu Fati) will have enough spark to make them more productive in key moments going forward, although a replacement will be needed for influential yet ageing midfield captain Sergio Busquets.

RUNNERS-UP: ENGLAND

England went from being criticised for their defensive approach in the group stage to keeping a nation thoroughly entertained throughout the summer in the knockout rounds. They built on their run to the semi-finals in the 2018 World Cup, going one better here before falling to an experienced Italy team in the final. They didn't concede a goal until the semis and Raheem Sterling was a standout performer in what was a highly-organised and progressive operation on and off the pitch. Critics continue to argue that Gareth Southgate is too cautious, more concerned with protecting the team's defensive frailties rather than utilising its attacking strength, but narrow defeat in the final on penalties shows he's not far from finding the winning formula.



WINNERS: ITALY

A 3-0 win against Turkey in Euro 2020's opening game set the tone for Italy's tournament as Roberto Mancini's side stormed their way through, coming out on top in a semi-final thriller against Spain before defeating England on their own turf at Wembley in the final. Their forwards shared out the goals while midfield trio Nicolo Barella, Marco Verratti and Jorginho were key, as was full-back Leonardo Spinazzola prior to injury. There was a sense of new attacking vigour which, when combined with wily defending and game management – epitomised by experienced duo Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellino – made Italy unstoppable.

FINAL

SUNDAY JULY 11, 8PM

ENGLAND (1) 1
(Shaw 2)

ITALY (0) 1
(Bonucci 67)

AET; 1-1 at 90 mins; Italy win 3-2 on penalties
Wembley, London. Att: 67,173. Ref: Kuipers (Ned)

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker (Sancho 120), Stones, Maguire; Trippier (Saka 70), Phillips, Rice (Henderson 74, Rashford 120), Shaw; Mount (Grealish 99), Sterling, Kane
Maguire

ITALY Donnarumma; Di Lorenzo, Bonucci, Chiellini, Emerson (Florenzi 118); Barella (Cristante 54), Jorginho, Verratti (Locatelli 96); Chiesa (Bernardeschi 86), Immobile (Berardi 55), Insigne (Belotti 91)
Barella, Bonucci, Insigne, Chiellini, Jorginho

GOALS

1-0 England break following an Italian corner. The ball is worked out wide on the right to Kieran Trippier, who crosses to the far post, where left wing-back Luke Shaw coolly half-volleys home.
1-1 An Italian corner is flicked on at the near post. Marco Verratti's header is tipped against the post by Jordan Pickford but Leonardo Bonucci buries the rebound.

"We found ourselves in a difficult position after conceding so early, but then we dominated"
Italy manager Roberto Mancini

ITALY BREAK ENGLAND HEARTS IN PENALTY-SHOOTOUT DRAMA

Fifty-three years since they last triumphed in a European Championship, Italy are once again sitting pretty atop the continental pile, clinching the laurels of battle with a penalty shootout victory over an excellent young England side. The *Azzurri* had to take the spot-kick route to prevail for the second game in succession in these finals – the first side to ever win two penalty shootouts at one Euros – with imposing goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma proving to be the man of the moment. Italy fully deserved their place on the winners' podium, not only the better side in the final, but the best team of the entire multi-venue competition. In normal circumstances, tournament finales tend to be cagey, nervous affairs, with both sides shadow boxing early on. Not in this instance, though, with England seizing the initiative right from the off. Just 117 seconds had elapsed when Luke Shaw fired in the fastest-ever goal in a European Championship final. What's more, the Manchester United man was both at the origin and the climax of the move. Much to the credit of England manager Gareth Southgate, England spent the first half very much in the ascendant tactically. Southgate's decision to switch to a defensive three was working well; skipper Harry Kane, cleverly finding pockets of space between the lines, was doing a fine job of pulling the attacking strings, while right wing-back Kieran Trippier, brought back into the starting line-up in place of Bukayo Saka, was benefitting from huge amounts of time and space in his channel. Usually so sure of themselves, Italy clearly were stunned, misplacing passes, holding onto the ball for too long and desperately short of answers to England's potency on the flanks. Only on one occasion did the *Azzurri* pose any real threat in the opening half, Federico Chiesa surging forward on 36 minutes before firing narrowly wide. After the restart, a far more animated Italy began to show considerably more craft and incisiveness in the final-third. England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford had to have his wits about him when Lorenzo Insigne tried to beat him at his near post and on the hour mark Chiesa went close again, fizzing a drive goalwards that Pickford kept out with a strong hand. The wind was changing direction and it would not be long before Roberto Mancini's side were level, veteran centre-back Leonardo Bonucci on hand to bundle in following a corner. Talk about a momentum shift. Now it was the Italians calling the tune, often leaving England marooned in their own half. Substitute Domenico Berardi lashed a volley wildly over the bar, another sub Bryan Cristante almost waltzed through on his own. One piece of bad news for Italy: the ever-dangerous Chiesa hobbling off shortly before the end of regulation time. Minus the Juventus winger, Italy crucially seemed to lose an offensive step. With extra-time yielding no further goals, for only the second time in the history of the European Championship – after Czechoslovakia's famous victory over West Germany in 1976 – a shootout would decide the gold medallist. Pickford saved brilliantly from Andrea Belotti and Jorginho. However, England, for their pains, were to miss three: Marcus Rashford hitting an upright and Donnarumma saving attempts from Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka. As English tears flowed, the *Azzurri* danced with joy. A night for *calcio* lovers to let their hair down.

Decisive...Donnarumma keeps out Saka's final penalty to seal the trophy

MATTER OF FACT

Aged 34 years and 71 days, Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci is the oldest player to score in a European Championship final.

PENALTIES (Italy first)			
Kane	1-1	0-1	Berardi
Maguire	2-1	1-1	Belotti (saved)
Rashford (post)	2-2	2-2	Bonucci
Sancho (saved)	2-3	2-3	Bernardeschi
Saka (saved)	2-3	2-3	Jorginho (saved)

SEMI-FINALS

TUESDAY JULY 6, 8PM

ITALY (0) 1
(Chiesa 60)

SPAIN (0) 1
(Morata 80)

AET; 1-1 at 90 mins; Italy win 4-2 on penalties

Wembley, London. Att: 57,811. Ref: Brych (Ger)

ITALY Donnarumma; Di Lorenzo, Bonucci, Chiellini, Emerson (Toloi 74); Barella (Locatelli 85), Jorginho, Verratti (Pessina 74); Chiesa (Bernardeschi 107), Immobile (Berardi 61), Insigne (Belotti 85)
Toloi, Bonucci

SPAIN Simon; Azpilicueta (M. Llorente 85), Garcia (P. Torres 109), Laporte, Alba; Koke (Rodri 70), Busquets (Thiago 106), Pedro; Oyarzabal (Moreno 70), Olmo, F. Torres (Morata 62)
Busquets

GOALS

1-0 Following a swift counter, Federico Chiesa picks up the ball on the edge of the Spanish box, cuts inside and curls a wonderful right-foot shot inside the far post.
1-1 Alvaro Morata coolly tucks away from close quarters after executing a precise one-two with Dani Olmo.

PENALTIES (Italy first)

Locatelli (saved)	0-0	0-0	Olmo (over)
Belotti	1-0	1-1	Moreno
Bonucci	2-1	2-2	Thiago
Bernardeschi	3-2	3-2	Morata (saved)
Jorginho	4-2		

"Spain made us suffer with their ability on the ball, but we knew that would be the case. My squad, however, is amazing. Everyone wants to win, to do something special"
Italy manager Roberto Mancini

ITALY EDGE OUT SPAIN ON PENALTIES TO REACH FINAL

While the best team on the night arguably lost, the most impressive side over the course of the tournament found their way to the final. That's probably the best way to sum up this enthralling toe-to-toe confrontation, a clash of styles (Spanish fluidity versus Italian organisation) that went all the way to the shootout test of nerve. Spain, producing their best all-round performance of the entire finals, dominated possession, probed intelligently and created the most chances. Yet once again, let themselves down with their profligacy in front of goal, Basque right-winger Mikel Oyarzabal particularly wasteful in this regard. How ironic that two of Spain's best players in the match, super-sub Alvaro Morata and false nine Dani Olmo, both missed their spot-kicks at the death. In marked contrast, Italian midfield regulator supreme Jorginho was composure personified, waiting for Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon to move before nonchalantly slotting home the deciding effort. After taking the lead on the hour mark, the *Azzurri* were hanging on for large periods and in extra-time were put under severe pressure, frequently forced to put their bodies on the line to block goal attempts from Olmo, Morata and Marcos Llorente. Not that we should be surprised by Italy's capacity to heroically resist: they practically wrote the book on the art of defending.

Decisive... Jorginho celebrates his match-winning penalty

MATTER OF FACT

This was Spain's first-ever loss in six major tournament semi-finals.

WEDNESDAY JULY 7, 8PM

ENGLAND (1) 2
(Kjaer og 39, Kane 104)

DENMARK (1) 1
(Damsgaard 30)

AET; 1-1 at 90 mins

Wembley, London. Att: 64,950. Ref: Makkelie (Ned)

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker, Stones, Maguire, Shaw; Phillips, Rice (Henderson 95); Saka (Grealish 69, Trippier 106), Mount (Foden 95), Sterling; Kane
Maguire

DENMARK Schmeichel; Christensen (Andersen 79), Kjaer, Vestergaard (Wind 105); Stryger Larsen (Wass 67), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Jensen 88), Maehle; Braithwaite, Damsgaard (Poulsen 67), Dolberg (Norgaard 67)
Wass

prospect of the country's first appearance in an international tournament final since 1966. For England, this was very much a test of character, one they passed with flying colours. Damsgaard's exquisite free-kick opener on the half-hour, the first goal England had conceded in these finals, easily could have turned English minds and legs to mush. But remaining composed and focused, Gareth Southgate's

Rebound...Kane scores the winner after seeing his penalty saved

GOALS

0-1 Mikkel Damsgaard's brilliantly-struck free-kick from long range has England keeper Jordan Pickford pawing at thin air.
1-1 Harry Kane's pass releases Bukayo Saka on the right. Under pressure from Raheem Sterling, Denmark skipper Simon Kjaer puts the cross into his own net.
2-1 England are awarded a penalty for a contentious foul on Sterling. Kane has his first attempt parried before netting the rebound.

"We said we would have to show some resilience, that we would have to recover from some setbacks and we did that"
England manager Gareth Southgate

ENGLAND END DANISH DREAMS

Riding a wave of emotion at a wall-of-sound Wembley, England had to take the long way home, coming from behind to break the resistance of the plucky Danes in extra-time. A night of pure, unadulterated joy for all followers of the Three Lions, rendered wild with delight at the charges jumped straight back into the saddle, taking less than ten minutes to restore scoreboard parity. Thanks to their excellent organisation, teamwork and spirit, the Danes more than held their own for the first hour. However, midway through the second half, they visibly began to wilt. Many of them were out on their feet and it was something of a minor miracle that they managed to force an additional 30 minutes. Wave upon wave of English pressure inevitably took its toll and although the winning penalty award was more than a little contentious, few could deny the logic of the final result.

MATTER OF FACT

Damsgaard's opening goal was the first direct free-kick to be struck home at Euro 2020.

QUARTER-FINALS

FRIDAY JULY 2, 5PM

SWITZERLAND (0) 1
(Shaqiri 68)

SPAIN (1) 1
(Zakaria 8 og)

AET; 1-1 at 90 mins; Spain win 3-1 on penalties

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg, Att: 24,764, Ref: Oliver (Eng)

Decisive...Oyarzabal scores the match-winning penalty

SWITZERLAND Sommer; Widmer (Mbabu 100), Elvedi, Akanji, Rodriguez; Zakaria (Schar 101), Freuler; Embolo (Vargas 23), Shaqiri (Sow 81), Zuber (Fassnacht 90+2); Seferovic (Gavranovic 81)
Widmer, Gavranovic ■ Freuler

SPAIN Simon; Azpilicueta, Laporte, P. Torres (Thiago 113), Alba; Koke (M. Llorente 90+1), Busquets, Pedri (Rodri 119); F. Torres (Oyarzabal 90+1), Morata (Moreno 54), Sarabia (Olmo 46)
Laporte

GOALS

0-1 A corner finds its way to Jordi Alba, whose drive is deflected in by Denis Zakaria's outstretched leg.

1-1 A mix-up involving Pau Torres and Aymeric Laporte allows Remo Freuler to pick up the pieces and square for Xherdan Shaqiri to net.

PENALTIES (Spain first)

Gavranovic	1-0	0-0	Busquets (post)
Schar (saved)	1-1	1-1	Olmo
Akanji (saved)	1-1	1-1	Rodri (saved)
Vargas (over)	1-2	1-2	Moreno
		1-3	Oyarzabal

"We're leaving this tournament with our heads high and very proud. The red card for Remo Freuler was very severe"
Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic

SOMMER CAN'T STOP SPAIN

To Spain, doing remarkably well for a team without a killer instinct in front of goal, the spoils of a penalty shootout win and a place in their first Euros semi-final since 2012. To the dogged Swiss – and especially their outstanding keeper Yann Sommer – the satisfaction of pushing *La Roja* all the way, refusing to buckle even when midfielder Remo Freuler was sent off somewhat harshly for foul play midway through the second half. In truth, Spain should have had the match done and dusted in extra-time. Slick and inventive, they carved out chance upon chance, only to fall victim to their own poor finishing or the heroics of Sommer. The Borussia Monchengladbach custodian, in the form of his life, had an aura of invincibility about him, working overtime to deny Jordi Alba, Mikel Oyarzabal, Gerard Moreno and Dani Olmo. Sommer would also pull off a save in the shootout, but ultimately it would not be enough, with the Swiss failing to score three of their four kicks, two of them saved by Unai Simon. Clearly Spain were the better, more enterprising team over the course of the match, but the Swiss undoubtedly will feel that the gods were against them: not just for Freuler's dismissal, but also the injury that forced key forward Breel Embolo to limp off early on.

MATTER OF FACT

In their last 23 full internationals versus Switzerland, Spain have lost only once – at the 2010 World Cup.

FRIDAY JULY 2, 8PM

BELGIUM (1) 1
(Lukaku pen 45+2)

ITALY (2) 2
(Barella 31, Insigne 44)

Allianz Arena, Munich, Att: 12,984, Ref: Vincic (Svn)

BELGIUM Courtois; Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Meunier (Chadli 69, Praet 73), Tielemans (Mertens 69), Witsel, T. Hazard; De Bruyne, Lukaku, Doku
Tielemans

ITALY Donnarumma; Di Lorenzo, Bonucci, Chiellini, Spinazzola (Emerson 80); Barella, Jorginho, Verratti (Cristante 74); Chiesa (Toloi 90+1), Immobile (Belotti 74), Insigne (Berardi 79)
Verratti, Berardi

GOALS

0-1 Belgium unwisely try to play out from the back and Italy force a turnover, from which midfielder Nicolo Barella wriggles past two defenders and drills home.

0-2 Lorenzo Insigne glides forward out on the left, cuts in and curls a glorious shot past Thibaut Courtois from the edge of the penalty area.

1-2 Italy full-back Giovanni Di Lorenzo is deemed to have pushed Jeremy Doku in the box. Romelu Lukaku puts away the spot-kick.

"Some people in Belgium are going to be angry, others disappointed. But at the end of the day, the difference between the two sides was minimal. Supporters could see that we fought right to the end"
Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne

ITALY PROVE THEIR CLASS

No longer can critics of the *Azzurri* claim that they merely are flat-track bullies, that their long unbeaten run of 32 games undefeated has only been compiled against teams outside the top 15 of the FIFA rankings. Belgium currently are classified No.1 in the world and what this enthralling quarter-final proved beyond all doubt is that Roberto Mancini's merry men are the real deal. Last-four protagonists in five previous European Championships, Italy certainly know how to prosper in continental tournaments. But has there ever been an *Azzurri* XI as well-balanced as the class of 2021? As the Belgians found out to their cost, this is an Italian side that can perform both the poetic and the ugly, thrillingly grasping the initiative in the latter part of the first half, the shooting boots of Nicolo Barella and Lorenzo Insigne doing the damage, before then producing a defensive masterclass in the face of a Belgian siege. Belgium's Golden Generation, once again failed to turn their obvious class into silverware. Yet it was not for the want of trying. Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma did wonderfully to keep out a Kevin De Bruyne pile-driver on 22 minutes, Romelu Lukaku missed a sitter on the hour mark and livewire young Anderlecht winger Jeremy Doku often had the Italians chasing shadows. In the end, though, the *Diables Rouges* had too much early damage to repair. Italians, carnivorous and streetwise, do not tend to waste two-goal leads.

MATTER OF FACT

This was Italy's 13th consecutive victory, a sequence that began in November 2020.

Worldy...Insigne celebrates Italy's second goal

SATURDAY JULY 3, 5PM

CZECH REPUBLIC (0) 1
(Schick 49)

DENMARK (2) 2
(Delaney 5, Dolberg 42)

Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku. Att: 16,306. Ref: Kuipers (Ned)

On the spot...Dolberg converts Maehle's pinpoint cross

CZECH REPUBLIC Vaclik; Coufal, Celustka (Brabec 65), Kalas, Boril; Soucek, Holes (Jankto 46); Masopust (Krmencik 46), Barak, Sevcik (Darida 80); Schick (Vydra 79)
Krmencik, Kalas

DENMARK Schmeichel; Christensen (Andersen 81), Kjaer, Vestergaard; Stryger Larsen (Wass 70), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Jensen 81), Maehle; Braithwaite, Damsgaard (Norgaard 59), Dolberg (Poulsen 59)

GOALS

0-1 Inexplicably left unattended, Thomas Delaney nods in a Jens Stryger Larsen right-wing corner.
0-2 Another rip-roaring Danish counter-attack. Joakim Maehle's brilliant outside-of-the-boot cross is volleyed home by Kasper Dolberg.
1-2 The in-form Patrik Schick is the quickest to react following a Vladimir Coufal centre, adroitly guiding the ball inside the far post.

"I'd be lying if I said that a place in the semis was enough for us"
Denmark captain Simon Kjaer

DANES' FAIRY TALE GOES ON

In a nail-biting head-to-head in which both sides displayed team spirit, heart and commitment, the Danes did just enough to prevail. In doing so, they moved on to their first Euros semi-final since 1992, the year they sensationally claimed the title by beating France, the Netherlands and Germany along the way. Before the game, coach Kasper Hjulmand predicted an intense, hard-fought affair, an encounter in which fine margins and execution would be the key factors. The story of the first half, however, was one of total Danish dominance, taking the lead after just five minutes and continually catching the Czechs out with their pace on the counter-attack. When Dolberg made it 2-0, converting a deliciously-inviting Maehle cross, the Czechs effectively looked down and out. However, they are nothing if not an indomitable bunch and aided by a half-time switch from 4-2-3-1 to 4-4-2, began to show considerably more verve and fluidity going forward. Within a few minutes of the restart they were back in contention – Patrik Schick netting his fifth goal of the tournament; and suddenly the Czechs were believers once more. The Danes would have to hang tough to ride out the storm, but it takes a lot to knock the current configuration of Danish Dynamite out of their stride.

MATTER OF FACT

Schick became the first Czech player to score five goals at a major tournament since Milan Baros in Euro 2004, whose tally included a quarter-final double v Denmark.

SATURDAY JULY 3, 8PM

UKRAINE (0) 0

ENGLAND (1) 4
(Kane 4, 50, Maguire 46, Henderson 63)

Stadio Olimpico, Rome. Att: 11,880. Ref: Brych (Ger)

UKRAINE Bushchan; Zabarnyi, Kryvtsov (Tsyhankov 35), Matviyenko; Karavayev, Shaparenko, Sydorchuk (Makarenko 64), Zinchenko, Mykolenko; Yarmolenko, Yaremchuk

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker, Stones, Maguire, Shaw (Trippier 65); Phillips (Bellingham 65), Rice (Henderson 57); Sancho, Mount, Sterling (Rashford 65); Kane (Calvert-Lewin 73)

GOALS

0-1 Raheem Sterling drives at the Ukraine defence before playing in Harry Kane, who stabs the ball past the onrushing keeper.
0-2 Luke Shaw whips a great free-kick into the opposition box and club team-mate Harry Maguire thumps home the header.
0-3 Sterling flicks a pass to Shaw wide on the left wing. The latter's perfect cross is nodded through the keeper's legs by Kane.
0-4 Mason Mount's corner is headed in by Jordan Henderson, his first-ever goal for England.

"There was a lot of pressure and a lot of expectation. The performance was top drawer"
England captain Harry Kane

ENGLAND SHOW RUTHLESSNESS

Superior in every possible facet of the game, England strolled past Ukraine in style, collectively and tactically impressive, often able to toy with their hapless opponents and ruthlessly exploiting their terrible marking at set-pieces. The Three Lions were in total control throughout. This was the best evidence yet of England appearing to come to the boil at just the right time, with their first game away from Wembley featuring a raft of positives: their fifth consecutive clean sheet at the finals, the ever-growing influence of young defensive midfielders Kalvin Phillips and Declan Rice, the immense creative contribution of left-back Luke Shaw, the freewheeling go-to excellence of Raheem Sterling in the attacking-third and Harry Kane's return to penalty-box sharpness following a soporific spell. Bearing in mind that this was a Euro quarter-final, the Ukrainians looked surprisingly sluggish and unambitious. It was almost as if they had already achieved their goal in reaching the last eight. They lacked intensity, their pressing game was barely effective and even when coach Andriy Shevchenko did attempt a more proactive approach – going to a 4-3-3 after defender Serhiy Kryvtsov went off injured on the half-hour mark – it only gave Gareth Southgate's side more space to work in.

MATTER OF FACT

Not since their 1966 World Cup final victory had England previously scored four goals in the knockout stages of a major tournament.

Brace...Kane nods in his second

ROUND OF 16

SATURDAY JUNE 26, 5PM

WALES (0) 0

DENMARK (1) 4
(Dolberg 27, 48, Maehle 88, Braithwaite 90+4)

Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam. Att: 14,465. Ref: Siebert (Ger)

WALES Ward; C. Roberts (N. Williams 40), Rodon, Mepham, B. Davies; Morrell (Wilson 59), Allen; Bale, Ramsey, James (Brooks 78); Moore (T. Roberts 78)
■ Rodon, Moore, Brooks, Bale ■ Wilson

DENMARK Schmeichel; Christensen, Kjaer (Andersen 77), Vestergaard; Stryger Larsen (Boilesen 77), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Jensen 60), Maehle; Braithwaite, Damsgaard (Norgaard 60), Dolberg (Cornelius 69)

GOALS

0-1 Striker Kasper Dolberg curls in a sweetly-struck shot from the edge of the penalty area.
0-2 Neco Williams miscues a clearance. Dolberg gobbles up the opportunity and doubles the lead.
0-3 Mathias Jensen clips a through ball to Joakim Maehle, who cuts inside and finishes emphatically with his left foot.
0-4 A nice touch from Andreas Cornelius sets up Martin Braithwaite. The latter sidesteps Joe Allen and successfully pulls the trigger.

WALES BLOWN AWAY

Denmark leading light Christian Eriksen, now recovering from the cardiac arrest he suffered in his side's opener against Finland, will have been immensely proud of the way his team-mates breezed into the last eight, brushing aside an out-thought and out-manoeuvred Wales. Although the margin of defeat was somewhat harsh on Gareth Bale and Co, the gulf in class between the two teams was there for all to see, the Danes clearly operating on an altogether higher tactical and technical plane. To their credit, Wales did start well, spending the first 15 minutes on the front foot. But all was to swiftly change following the decision of Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand to switch from a back three to a back four, moving centre-back Andreas Christensen into midfield. This effectively killed two birds with one stone, using the Chelsea man to both nullify Aaron Ramsey and cut the supply line to Welsh target man Kieffer Moore. The tables turned, Wales never regained momentum. The game was already up for the Dragons when Denmark striker Dolberg – only starting because of injury to Yussuf Poulsen – netted the second of his two goals shortly after the break. Wales, for whom key men Bale and Ramsey were largely on the periphery, conceded further goals late on to Maehle and Braithwaite. Wales' afternoon of despair was typified by a late sending off for substitute Harry Wilson, guilty of a petulant late challenge on Maehle.

Brace...Kasper Dolberg scores his second goal

"I admire the boys and the fact that we keep fighting. No matter who plays, they play very well. The guys are real warriors"
Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand

MATTER OF FACT

Kasper Dolberg is the first Dane to score a brace in a Euro knockout phase game since Henrik Larsen did so in the semi-final win over the Netherlands in 1992.

SATURDAY JUNE 26, 8PM

ITALY (0) 2
(Chiesa 95, Pessina 105)

AUSTRIA (0) 1
(Kalajdzic 114)

AET; 0-0 at 90 mins

Wembley, London. Att: 18,910. Ref: Taylor (Eng)

ITALY Donnarumma; Di Lorenzo, Acerbi, Bonucci, Spinazzola; Barella (Pessina 67), Jorginho, Verratti (Locatelli 67); Berardi (Chiesa 84), Immobile (Belotti 84), Insigne (Cristante 108)
■ Di Lorenzo, Barella

AUSTRIA Bachmann; Lainer (Trimmel 114), Dragovic, Hinteregger, Alaba; X. Schlager (Gregoritsch 106) Grillitsch (Schaub 106); Laimer (Ilsanker 114), Sabitzer, Baumgartner (Schopf 90); Arnautovic (Kalajdzic 97)
■ Dragovic, Hinteregger, Arnautovic

GOALS

1-0 In a three-part work of art, Federico Chiesa controls a difficult bouncing ball, wrong-foots a defender and slams the ball home with his left boot.
2-0 After receiving a lay-off from the prostrate Francesco Acerbi, Matteo Pessina adroitly works an opening for himself before finishing powerfully with a cross-shot.
2-1 Sasa Kalajdzic bravely stoops to head in an in-swinging Louis Schaub corner at the near-post.

"It was an explosion of emotions to score the 2-0 goal in such a tough and tight game. I'll remember this goal for the rest of my life"
Italy goalscorer Matteo Pessina

AUSTRIA PUSH THE ITALIANS

Heavily tipped to chew up and digest the Austrians in short order, the *Azzurri* had to be strong-willed, patient and resourceful to finally prevail in extra-time thanks to goals from substitutes Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina. Even at 2-0 down deep into the additional 30 minutes, the resilient, hard-working Austrians simply refused to give up the ghost and, on reducing the arrears through Sasa Kalajdzic, made Roberto Mancini's charges sweat to the very end. The goalless 90 minutes was the classic tale of two halves, with Italy looking the most likely in the first period: midfielder Nicolo Barella forced a spread-eagled stop from Austria keeper Daniel Bachmann and the ever-elusive Ciro Immobile hit a dipping shot onto the woodwork. Most would have expected a similar scenario after the restart, but instead it was the Austrians who came to the fore, squeezing the life out of the *Azzurri* with their tremendous pressing game and increasingly asserting themselves as an attacking force. Indeed, midway through the second-half, Austria thought they had opened the scoring, Stefan Lainer crossing to the far post, David Alaba heading the ball back into the middle and talismanic striker Marko Arnautovic using all of his neck muscles to dexterously nod home. For a moment or two, a shock of seismic proportions appeared on the cards. Fortunately for the Italians, Arnautovic was marginally offside. *Grazie*, VAR.

MATTER OF FACT

Kalajdzic's goal for Austria was the first goal Italy had conceded since October 2020, ending a run of 1,168 clean sheet minutes.

Decisive...Matteo Pessina scores in extra-time

SUNDAY JUNE 27, 5PM

NETHERLANDS (0) 0
CZECH REPUBLIC (0) 2
(Holes 68, Schick 80)

Puskas Arena, Budapest. Att: 52,834. Ref: Karasev (Rus)

Game-changing... Matthijs de Ligt leaves the pitch

NETHERLANDS Stekelenburg; De Vrij, De Ligt, Blind (Timber 81); Dumfries, De Roon (Weghorst 73), Wijnaldum, F. De Jong, Van Aanholt (Berghuis 81); Depay, Malen (Promes 57)
Dumfries, F. De Jong ■ De Ligt

CZECH REPUBLIC Vaclik; Coufal, Celustka, Kalas, Kaderabek; Holes (Kral 85), Soucek; Masopust (Jankto 79), Barak (Sadilek 90+2), Sevcik (Hlozek 85); Schick (Krmencik 90+2)
Coufal

GOALS

0-1 A free-kick launched to the far post is headed back whence it came by Tomas Kalas. Tomas Holes nods home from close quarters.
0-2 Holes, bursting forward in the inside-left channel, cuts the ball back for Patrik Schick, who coolly converts left-footed.

DUTCH EXIT AFTER DE LIGT RED

Certain errors are unforgivable at any level, and Dutch stopper Matthijs de Ligt committed a cardinal sin when sent off early in the second half for a mindless handball, thus giving the Czechs a heaven-sent opportunity to go on and rip up the established order. De Ligt's *faux pas* was a comedy of errors, not only making the initial mistake of allowing a long up-and-under to bounce while under pressure from Czech ace Schick, but then compounding it by losing his footing and scooping the ball back with his hand. Now blessed with an extra man, the Czechs could not have dreamt of a more favourable scenario and they made it count, opening the scoring via a double-header set-piece. Full marks to the Czechs for perfectly executing the game plan devised by coach Jaroslav Silhavy, proving themselves superior in individual battles, difficult to play through, dynamic out wide and quick to put crosses into the box. Widely-lauded for their creativity, fluidity and firepower, the Dutch showed precious little of those qualities. Apart from energetic wing-back Denzel Dumfries, the *Oranje* only rarely played with any tempo, key midfielders Gini Wijnaldum and Frenkie de Jong looked jaded, and star striker Memphis Depay was especially poor with his set-piece deliveries. The Dutch should have realised it was not their day when, just a minute before De Ligt's dismissal, forward Donyell Malen fluffed his lines in a one-on-one with Czech keeper Tomas Vaclik.

"I felt like we were growing in the tournament. But today was an off day. It's very painful and difficult, but that's the reality"
Netherlands captain Gini Wijnaldum

MATTER OF FACT

Czech Republic have now won five of their last seven matches against the Netherlands.

SUNDAY JUNE 27, 8PM

BELGIUM (1) 1
(T. Hazard 42)
PORTUGAL (0) 0

La Cartuja Stadium, Seville. Att: 11,504. Ref: Brych (Ger)

BELGIUM Courtois; Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Meunier, Witsel, Tielemans, T. Hazard (Dendoncker 90+5); De Bruyne (Mertens 48), E. Hazard (Carrasco 87); Lukaku
Vermaelen, Alderweireld

PORTUGAL Rui Patricio; Dalot, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Guerreiro; Joao Moutinho (Joao Felix 55), Joao Palhinha (Danilo 78), Renato Sanches (Sergio Oliveira 78); Bernardo Silva (Bruno Fernandes 55), Cristiano Ronaldo, Diogo Jota (Andre Silva 70)
Joao Palhinha, Dalot, Pepe

GOALS

1-0 Thomas Meunier looks left to feed Thorgan Hazard whose swerving drive from 25 yards leaves Rui Patricio with no chance.

"A number of players are crying in the dressing room at the moment. We gave it our all, but the goal wouldn't come and that's football"
Portugal coach Fernando Santos

HAZARD KNOCKS OUT HOLDERS

In a clash of two of international football's biggest hitters, Thorgan Hazard's sumptuous long-range hit was a genuine moment of end-product brilliance. Thorgan usually has to play second fiddle to his more famous older brother Eden, but soon we might have to treat them as equals. While Eden is still in search of his best form after two injury-ravaged seasons with Real Madrid, Thorgan has been busy establishing himself as a *Diables Rouges* mainstay, with this strike his sixth goal contribution in seven games (four goals, two assists).

This was one of those games where the scoreline bore no resemblance to the statistical output. While Belgium only had one shot on target – the Hazard stunner – Portugal had five times as many and, in the course of the 90 minutes, racked up no fewer than 24 goal attempts. Chasing the game in the second half, Portugal repeatedly went close to equalising. Diogo Jota fired just over following stylish Cristiano Ronaldo approach work; Belgian keeper Thibaut Courtois blocked a point-blank Ruben Dias header; Raphael Guerreiro struck a post and substitute Joao Felix pulled a shot wide. No one can say the defending European champions meekly surrendered their crown. Ultimately though, the Belgians held firm and both their squad and coach Roberto Martinez will take great heart from the "bend but don't break" heroics of their veteran back-line of Thomas Vermaelen (35), Toby Aldeweireld (32) and Jan Vertonghen (34).

MATTER OF FACT

This was the second consecutive Euro finals in which the reigning champions were eliminated in the round of 16 (Spain lost to Italy at the same stage in 2016).

Winner...Thorgan Hazard fires home

ROUND OF 16

MONDAY JUNE 28, 5PM

CROATIA (1) 3
(Pedri 20 og, Orsic 85, Pasalic 90+2)

SPAIN (1) 5
(Sarabia 38, Azpilicueta 57, F. Torres 77, Morata 100, Oyarzabal 103)

AET; 3-3 at 90 mins

Parken Stadium, Copenhagen. Att: 22,771. Ref: Cakir (Tur)

CROATIA Livakovic; Juranovic (Brekalo 74), Vida, Caleta-Car, Gvardiol; Modric (Ivanusec 114), Brozovic, Kovacic (Budimir 79); Vlasic (Pasalic 79), Petkovic (Kramaric 46), Rebic (Orsic 67)
Brozovic, Caleta-Car

SPAIN Simon; Azpilicueta, Garcia (P. Torres 71), Laporte, Gaya (Alba 77); Koke (Fabian 77), Busquets (Rodri 101), Pedri; F. Torres (Oyarzabal 88), Morata, Sarabia (Olmo 71)

GOALS

1-0 Pedri plays a long back-pass to goalkeeper Unai Simon, who allows the ball to bobble over his foot and into the vacant net.
1-1 Pablo Sarabia fires in from ten yards after Croatia keeper Dominik Livakovic palms a shot into his path.
1-2 Right-back Cesar Azpilicueta rises to bullet home a header from a left-wing Ferran Torres cross.
1-3 Croatia are caught napping by a searching cross-field diagonal ball. Ferran Torres shrugs off a defender before calmly finishing.
2-3 Substitute Mislav Orsic scrambles the ball over the line following a spot of pinball.
3-3 Orsic puts in a pin-point centre from the left flank. Fellow sub Mario Pasalic buries the header.
3-4 On the end of a right-wing Dani Olmo cross, Alvaro Morata brilliantly controls with his right foot, then lashes home with his left foot.
3-5 Olmo provides yet another delicious cross from the right. Mikel Oyarzabal collects and steers home.

EXTRAORDINARY GOAL-FEST

Match of the tournament, this was a head-to-head for the ages, an encounter brimming over with the ingredients that attracts converts to the beautiful game: eight goals, most of them taken with aplomb; wild momentum swings; invention and technical polish; mistakes, thrills and spills galore – 120 minutes of pure football theatre. Amidst all the end-to-end flow, both teams have to be complimented for their character to dig themselves out of deep holes. After conceding the most bizarre of own-goals, Spain did not dwell on that mad moment, scoring three goals without reply. Then it was the Croats turn to show their never-say-die guts, forcing extra-time with two late efforts from subs Orsic and Pasalic. The Croats began the additional half-hour the stronger. But, revealing a steely core, *La Roja* would have the last word, stamping their quarter-final ticket with a wonderful finish from the much-maligned Morata and a clinical strike by Oyarzabal. Even Unai Simon, so sloppy in handing Croatia the lead, did a fine job of putting that error behind him. He has a reputation as great shot-stopper and pulled off two brilliant saves to deny Jose Gvardiol (68) and Andrej Kramaric (96).

"The team has fought, they have believed and this game leaves us with many positive things. Whoever wants to beat us will have to run a lot and play very well"
Spain coach Luis Enrique

MATTER OF FACT

Teenage Spain midfielder Pedri became the youngest-ever player to start a Euros knockout stage game (18 years and 215 days).

Extra-time... Morata scores Spain's fourth

MONDAY JUNE 28, 8PM

FRANCE (0) 3
(Benzema 57, 59, Pogba 75)

SWITZERLAND (1) 3
(Seferovic 15, 81, Gavranovic 90)

AET; 3-3 at 90 mins; Switzerland win 5-4 on penalties

National Arena, Bucharest. Att: 22,642. Ref: Rapallini (Arg)

FRANCE Lloris; Varane, Lenglet (Coman 46, Thuram 112), Kimpembe; Pavard, Pogba, Kante, Rabiot; Griezmann (Sissoko 88); Benzema (Giroud 94), Mbappe
Varane, Coman, Pavard

SWITZERLAND Sommer; Elvedi, Akanji, Rodriguez (Mehmedi 87); Widmer (Mbabu 73), Freuler, Xhaka, Zuber (Fassnacht 79); Shaqiri (Gavranovic 73); Seferovic (Schar 97), Embolo (Vargas 79)
Elvedi, Rodriguez, Xhaka, Akanji

GOALS

0-1 Haris Seferovic outmuscles Clement Lenglet to head home.
1-1 Following a slick passing sequence, Karim Benzema, all exquisite first touch and power, flicks the ball past the keeper.
2-1 After Yann Sommer thwarts Antoine Griezmann, Benzema nods in the rebound at the far post.
3-1 Paul Pogba curls a long-range special into the top corner.
3-2 Kevin Mbabu has all the time in the world to deliver a cross from the right. Seferovic beats Raphael Varane in the air to nod home.
3-3 Granit Xhaka's killer ball puts Mario Gavranovic in the clear, who sidesteps a Presnel Kimpembe challenge and shoots powerfully into the corner past Hugo Lloris.

PENALTIES (Switzerland first)

Pogba	1-1	0-1	Gavranovic
Giroud	2-2	1-2	Schar
Thuram	3-3	2-3	Akanji
Kimpembe	4-4	3-4	Vargas
Mbappe (saved)	4-5	4-5	Mehmedi

SWISS STUN WORLD CHAMPS

The reigning world champions will need a period of soul-searching in order to come to terms with this stunning loss in an electrifying face-off which nobody saw coming. As the clock ticked down, France, 3-1 up and coasting, already seemed to have one foot in the last eight, only to let their valiant opponents off the hook. For reasons best known to themselves, the French defence collapsed, giving the Swiss all the time and space they needed to sensationally draw level thanks to a late Seferovic header and classy Gavranovic finish. *Les Bleus* had several good chances to get their noses back in front in extra-time, particularly when Benjamin Pavard forced a save out of Yann Sommer and when Kylian Mbappe miscued after being put clean through. But penalty shootouts are no place for faint hearts and unfortunately for boy wonder Mbappe, his nerve went AWOL, his kick clawed away by the impressive Sommer. Well-drilled, resolute and enterprising, Switzerland deserve the utmost praise for doggedly refusing to accept their fate. They were the better team in the first half and unlike the French, looked a real unit. Their only black mark of the night was Ricardo Rodriguez's penalty miss on 54 minutes. Just as well that the latter, who was subbed off late in the game, could not take part in the shootout.

Hero...Sommer celebrates saving Mbappe's penalty

"We got it all wrong. We dealt badly with things in the key moments and at other times"
France defender Raphael Varane

MATTER OF FACT

This was Switzerland's first knockout stage victory at a major tournament since 1938.

TUESDAY JUNE 29, 5PM

ENGLAND (0) 2
(Sterling 75, Kane 86)

GERMANY (0) 0

Wembley, London. Att: 41,973. Ref: Makkelie (Ned)

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker, Stones, Maguire; Trippier, Phillips, Rice (Henderson 88), Shaw; Saka (Grealish 69) Kane, Sterling
Rice, Phillips, Maguire

GERMANY Neuer; Ginter (Can 87), Hummels, Rudiger; Kimmich, Goretzka, Kroos, Gosens (Sane 88); Havertz, Werner (Gnabry 69) Muller (Musiala 90+2)
Ginter, Gosens

GOALS

1-0 Substitute Jack Grealish spreads the ball wide to Luke Shaw on the left, and his low cross is turned in by Raheem Sterling.
2-0 Grealish turns provider-in-chief, clipping the ball into the danger zone for Harry Kane to head past Manuel Neuer.

"At times we were impotent. We didn't do enough. We made it too simple for them. In no phase of the game did we exploit England's weaknesses"
Ex-Germany captain Michael Ballack

ENGLAND END GERMANY JINX

At last; 55 years since their triumph in the 1966 World Cup final, England finally have another win over the *Nationalmannschaft* in a tournament knockout game. In front of a volcanic crowd at Wembley, the Three Lions started rather nervously, but steadily grew in stature and assurance as the game wore on. England manager Gareth Southgate was totally vindicated in his pragmatic strategy, his charges staying focused and disciplined in defence prior to going through the attacking gears late on. A vital element of England's win was the introduction 20 minutes from time of mercurial Aston Villa playmaker Jack Grealish, who was involved in both his side's goals. Ultimately in such a tight head-to-head, victory went to the most efficient side. While England grabbed their opportunities with both hands, Germany failed to do likewise. The experienced Thomas Muller, who failed to hit the target when put clean through just moments after Sterling opened the scoring, may never forget the would-be equaliser he spurned. England's defence, yet to concede a goal at the finals, once again put in a Herculean shift. Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was imperial too, especially when saving a Timo Werner one-on-one and tipping over a Kai Havertz howitzer.

MATTER OF FACT

Sterling's opener was his 15th goal in 20 international appearances, having failed to hit the net in his previous 27 England games.

End of an era...Hummels and Neuer watch Sterling's goal nestle in the net

TUESDAY JUNE 29, 8PM

SWEDEN (1) 1
(Forsberg 43)

UKRAINE (1) 2
(Zinchenko 27, Dovbyk 120+1)

AET; 1-1 at 90 mins

Hampden Park, Glasgow. Att: 9,221. Ref: Orsato (Ita)

Ecstatic...Dovbyk celebrates his winning goal

SWEDEN Olsen; Lustig (Krafth 83), Lindelof, Danielson, Augustinsson (Bengtsson 83); S. Larsson (Claesson 97), Olsson (Helander 101), Ekdal, Forsberg; Kulusevski (Quaison 97), Isak (Berg 97)
Kulusevski, Forsberg ■ Danielson

UKRAINE Bushchan; Zabarnyi, Kryvtsov, Matviyenko; Karavayev, Sydorchuk (Bezus 117), Stepanenko (Makarenko 95), Shaparenko (Malinovskyi 61), Zinchenko; Yarmolenko (Dovbyk 106), Yaremchuk (Besyedin 91, Tsyhankov 101)
Yarmolenko, Dovbyk

GOALS

1-0 Andriy Yarmolenko cleverly uses the outside of his boot to play in Oleksandr Zinchenko on the left side of the box, who sweetly hammers it home.
1-1 Emil Forsberg's shot from the edge of the area takes a deflection off Ilya Zabarnyi, giving goalkeeper Heorhiy Bushchan no chance.
1-2 Zinchenko sends in an inviting inch-perfect cross from the left, and Artem Dovbyk stoops to head in.

LATE AGONY FOR SWEDEN

Only on the pitch for 15 minutes, Ukraine sub Artem Dovbyk proved the man of the moment in this scrap-till-you-drop clash, heading the winner deep into extra-time. Little wonder the final whistle sparked scenes of wild jubilation amongst the Ukraine camp: this was their first-ever qualification for a Euros quarter-final, and only the second occasion (after World Cup 2006) that they have reached the last eight of a major tournament. The turning point in this titanic battle of wills came early in extra-time, when Sweden centre-back Marcus Danielson was sent off after a VAR check, guilty of a recklessly high follow-through on Ukraine's Artem Besyedin. Sweden, straining every sinew to stay in the game, looked to have done enough to take the tie to a shootout. Dovbyk, however, had other ideas, scoring his first international goal at the best possible time. Sweden's demise was particularly hard on the in-form Emil Forsberg, who apart from netting his team's equaliser with a deflected shot, also twice rattled the frame of the Ukrainian goal.

"With this performance and commitment, our team deserves the love of the whole country"
Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko

MATTER OF FACT

Forsberg is the first Sweden player ever to rack up four goals in a single European Championship.

GROUP A

FRIDAY JUNE 11, 8PM

ITALY (0) 3
(Demiral 53 og, Immobile 66, Insigne 79)

TURKEY (0) 0

Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Att: 12,916. Ref: Makkelie (Ned)

ITALY Donnarumma; Florenzi (Di Lorenzo 46), Bonucci, Chiellini, Spinazzola; Barella, Jorginho, Locatelli (Cristante 73); Berardi (Bernardeschi 85), Immobile (Belotti 81), Insigne (Chiesa 81)

TURKEY Cakir; Celik, Soyuncu, Demiral, Meras; Yokuslu (Kahveci 65); Karaman (Dervisoglu 77), Tufan (Ayhan 65), Yazici (Under 46), Calhanoglu; Yilmaz
Soyuncu, Dervisoglu

GOALS

1-0 After Domenico Berardi had driven into the penalty area, his right-footed cross was bundled in by Turkish defender Merih Demiral. **2-0** Berardi was involved again, crossing for Leonardo Spinazzola, whose shot was saved straight into the path of Ciro Immobile to slot in. **3-0** Immobile turned provider for the final goal, sliding a pass through the Turkish defence for Insigne to curl the ball past Ugurcan Cakir.

Curtain-raiser...the match was preceded by an opening ceremony

ITALY BEGIN WITH DREAM START

Italy began the tournament with 90 minutes of intense, attacking football which more than lived up to best expectations of them. Having played Turkey off the park in the first half, Italy came out after half-time to deliver more of the same, eventually cracking the Turks in the 53rd minute when defender Demiral, under huge pressure, scored an own-goal. Immobile and Insigne got two more to round off a scintillating display, confirming the *Azzurri* as one of the favourites and also taking their unbeaten run to 28 games.

MATTER OF FACT

This was the first time that Italy had ever scored three goals in a European Championship game.

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2PM

WALES (0) 1
(Moore 74)

SWITZERLAND (0) 1
(Embolo 49)

Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku
Att: 8,782. Ref: Turpin (Fra)

WALES Ward; C. Roberts, Rodon, Mepham, B. Davies; Morrell, Allen; Bale, Ramsey (Ampadu 90+3), James (Brooks 75); Moore
Moore

SWITZERLAND Sommer; Elvedi, Schar, Akanji; Mbabu, Freuler, Xhaka, Rodriguez; Shaqiri (Zakaria 66); Embolo, Seferovic (Gavranovic 84)
Schar, Mbabu

GOALS

0-1 From Xherdan Shaqiri's in-swinging corner, Cameroon-born striker Breel Embolo holds off his marker to power a header past Danny Ward. **1-1** Following a short corner routine at the other end, Cardiff City's Kieffer Moore rises highest to flick on Joe Morrell's pinpoint cross.

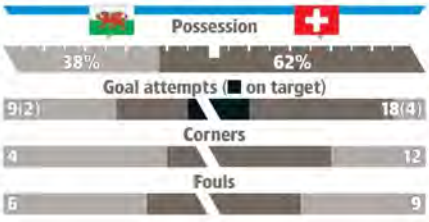
Equaliser...Kieffer Moore's flicked header

SLOW START SPARKS INTO LIFE

By the standards of the opening match, Wales v Switzerland provided much less drama. In the first half the Dragons handed the initiative to their rivals, who attacked laboriously, but things livened up in the second half. Man of the Match Embolo's opener forced Wales to abandon their cautious game, and their efforts were rewarded with Moore's equaliser. From there on, it was Switzerland who came closest to scoring a winner, with substitute Mario Gavranovic's goal ruled out for offside. The Italians could have been forgiven for feeling that they would have little to worry about from their group rivals.

MATTER OF FACT

Shaqiri's assist for Embolo was his eighth goal contribution at a major tournament since 2014.



WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 5PM

TURKEY (0) 0

WALES (1) 2
(Ramsey 42, Roberts 90+5)

Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku
Att: 19,762. Ref: Dias (Por)

TURKEY Cakir; Celik, Ayhan, Soyuncu, Meras (Muldur 72); Yokuslu (Demiral 46); Under (Kahveci 83), Tufan (Yazici 46), Calhanoglu, Karaman (Dervisoglu 75); Yilmaz
Calhanoglu, Yilmaz

WALES Ward; C. Roberts, Mepham, Rodon, B. Davies; Morell, Allen (Ampadu 73); Bale, Ramsey (Wilson 85), James (N. Williams 90+4); Moore
Mepham, B. Davies

GOALS

0-1 Wales were good value for this opener as Gareth Bale picked out the unmarked Aaron Ramsey with a precise pass from outside the box. **0-2** Taking a cheeky stoppage-time short corner, Bale ran practically from the corner flag to the Turkish goalposts before setting up the easiest of chances for Connor Roberts.

Skied...Bale sends his penalty over the bar

BALE LEADS WALES TO VICTORY

While Turkey still seemed shell-shocked in the wake of their 3-0 drubbing by Italy, Wales gave a much improved display from their 1-1 draw with Switzerland. Their two genuine world-class stars, Bale and Ramsey, took the game by the scruff of the neck, inspiring them to a deserved win amid sloppy Turkish defending. Although Bale missed the chance to wrap up the game just after the hour mark, sending his penalty miles over the bar, he more than made up for it with his two assists and an outstanding all-round display.

MATTER OF FACT

This gave Wales the best winning percentage in the history of the Euros (five wins out of eight).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
WALES	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
SWITZERLAND	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
TURKEY	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

GROUP A

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 8PM

ITALY (1) 3
(Locatelli 26, 52, Immobile 89)

SWITZERLAND (0) 0

Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Att: 12,445. Ref: Karasev (Rus)

ITALY Donnarumma; Di Lorenzo, Bonucci, Chiellini (Acerbi 24), Spinazzola; Barella (Cristante 87), Jorginho, Locatelli (Pessina 86); Berardi (Toloi 70), Immobile, Insigne (Chiesa 69)

SWITZERLAND Sommer; Elvedi, Schar (Zuber 58), Akanji; Mbabu (Widmer 58) Freuler (Sow 84), Xhaka, Rodriguez; Shaqiri (Vargas 76); Seferovic (Gavranovic 46), Embolo
Gavranovic, Embolo

GOALS

1-0 Manuel Locatelli wins possession in his own half, knocks a 40-yard pass out right to Domenico Berardi, then races into the penalty area to convert a cross from his club team-mate.
2-0 Nicolo Barella tees up Locatelli, this time on the edge of the box, before the midfielder finishes with a precise diagonal shot.
3-0 After more high Italian pressing, the ball falls to Ciro Immobile on the edge of the area, who turns and hits a vicious low shot that keeper Yann Sommer fails to stop.

Match winner... Manuel Locatelli

ITALY KEEP UP THEIR MOMENTUM

After their impressive winning start against Turkey, Italy stretched their unbeaten run to 29 games with another dominant, convincing performance. Hero of the night was Sassuolo midfielder Manuel Locatelli, scorer of Italy's opening two goals, whilst local hero, Lazio striker Ciro Immobile wrapped up the business with a third goal late on.

MATTER OF FACT

This was Italy's tenth consecutive clean sheet, a run of games that began in November 2020.

Possession	
49%	51%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	
13(3)	6(1)
Corners	
3	2
Fouls	
10	12

SUNDAY JUNE 20, 5PM

ITALY (1) 1
(Pessina 39)

WALES (0) 0

Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Att: 11,541. Ref: Hategan (Rou)

ITALY Donnarumma (Sirigu 89); Toloi, Bonucci (Acerbi 46), Bastoni, Emerson; Pessina (Castrovilli 87), Jorginho (Cristante 75), Verratti; Bernardeschi (Raspadori 75), Belotti, Chiesa
Pessina

WALES Ward; Rodon, Ampadu, Gunter; C. Roberts, Allen (Levitt 86), Morell (Moore 60), N. Williams (B. Davies 86); Ramsey; Bale (Brooks 86), James (Wilson 75)
Gunter, Allen ■ Ampadu

GOALS

1-0 After the Welsh defence failed to pick up Matteo Pessina from a free-kick, the Atalanta midfielder converted Marco Veratti's low ball into the area with a neat, side-footed finish.

Goalmouth...a chance falls to Andrea Belotti

ITALY SECURE MAXIMUM POINTS

By the pyrotechnic standards of their opening 3-0 victories against Turkey and Switzerland, this was a much more typical Italy performance. High temperatures, mass team changes, the fact they were already through and, above all, the ultra defensive attitude of a well-organised, resolute Wales ensured that this time Italy picked up three points with the most classic of classic Italian scorelines. All credit to Wales, who conceded little despite being down to ten men for the last 35 minutes following the straight red card, perhaps harshly awarded, to Ethan Ampadu for a foul on Federico Bernardeschi.

MATTER OF FACT

By the end of this match, Roberto Mancini had given a game to every player in his squad, with the exception of third-choice keeper Alex Meret.

Possession	
63%	37%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	
23(6)	3(1)
Corners	
7	1
Fouls	
14	12

SUNDAY JUNE 20, 5PM

SWITZERLAND (2) 3
(Seferovic 6, Shaqiri 26, 68)

TURKEY (0) 1
(Kahveci 62)

Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku
Att: 17,138. Ref: Vincic (Svn)

SWITZERLAND Sommer; Elvedi, Akanji, Rodriguez; Widmer (Mbabu 90+2), Freuler, Xhaka, Zuber (Benito 85); Shaqiri (Vargas 75); Seferovic (Gavranovic 75), Embolo (Mehmedi 86)
Xhaka

TURKEY Cakir; Celik, Demiral, Soyuncu, Muldur; Ayhan (Yokuslu 63); Under (Karaman 80), Tufan (Yazici 63), Kahveci (Kokcu 80), Calhanoglu (Tokoz 86); Yilmaz
Celik, Soyuncu, Calhanoglu

GOALS

1-0 Steven Zuber plays a short pass infield to Haris Seferovic on the edge of the box, who swivels and finishes with a low, accurate shot.
2-0 A brilliant goal from Xherdan Shaqiri, who picks up the ball just outside the Turkish area to hit a curling, right-footed cracker.
2-1 Against the run of play, Irfan Kahveci picks up the ball outside the area, tricks his way past Ricardo Rodriguez before bending a 25-yard, left-footed drive past Yann Sommer.
3-1 Zuber plays a one-two with Granit Xhaka on the left flank before hitting a clever, low cross for Shaqiri to run onto and lash the ball home.

Rocket...Xherdan Shaqiri scores his side's second goal

TURKISH CAMPAIGN ENDS IN ANGER

The game ended with 17,000 Turks whistling their team off the pitch after a third poor display. Their disappointment was all the more keenly felt having gone into the tournament as dark horses.

MATTER OF FACT

This was only the second game since 1980 to see both sides have ten shots in the first half.

Possession	
49%	51%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	
23(10)	19(6)
Corners	
8	8
Fouls	
14	20

GROUP B

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 5PM

DENMARK (0) 0
FINLAND (0) 1
(Pohjanpalo 60)

Parken Stadium, Copenhagen
Att: 13,790. Ref: Taylor (Eng)

DENMARK Schmeichel; Wass (Stryger Larsen 76), Kjaer (Vestergaard 63), Christensen, Maehle; Eriksen (Jensen 43), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Cornelius 76); Poulsen, Wind (Skov Olsen 63), Braithwaite

FINLAND Hradecky; Raitala (Vaisanen 90), Toivio, Arajuuri, O'Shaughnessy, Uronen; Lod, Sparv (Schuller 76), Kamara; Pohjanpalo (Forss 84), Pukki (Kauko 76)
Lod, Sparv

GOALS

0-1 Joel Pohjanpalo scores with a close-range header from a Jere Uronen cross that, in normal circumstances, would probably have been saved by goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

History...Pohjanpalo scores Finland's first tournament goal

FOOTBALL OVERSHADOWED

Group B's opening match was suspended and completely overshadowed by Christian Eriksen's collapse towards the end of the first half. UEFA gave the players two choices once Eriksen was conscious in his hospital bed: resume that evening or play at noon the next day. They chose the former option, but Denmark expressed emotional regret in the days afterwards with coach Kasper Hjulmand particularly strong in his statements. UEFA, he said, would allow a 48-hour delay for COVID, but not for a cardiac arrest when a player almost died.

MATTER OF FACT

Joel Pohjanpalo's opener was his third goal in as many games for Finland, making 2021 his joint-best goalscoring year in international football – equalling his tally from 2015.

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 8PM

RUSSIA (0) 0
BELGIUM (2) 3
(Lukaku 10, 88, Meunier 34)

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 26,264. Ref: Lahoz (Spa)

RUSSIA Shunin; Fernandes, Semyonov, Dzhikiya, Zhirkov (Karavayev 43); Odzoyev, Barinov (Diveyev 46); Zobnin, (Mukhin 63), Golovin, Kuzyaev (Cheryshev 29, Miranchuk 63); Dzyuba

BELGIUM Courtois; Alderweireld, Boyata, Vertonghen (Vermaelen 76); Castagne (Meunier 27), Dendoncker, Tielemans, T. Hazard; Mertens (E. Hazard 72), Lukaku, Carrasco (Praet 77)

GOALS

0-1 Romelu Lukaku slots home in the tenth minute after a touch from Andrey Semyenov plays him onside following Dries Mertens' cross.
0-2 Substitute Thomas Meunier side-foots home after a Thorgan Hazard cross-cum-shot is parried straight into his path by the keeper.
0-3 A clinical late finish from Lukaku, shooting on the run with devastating accuracy after a killer through ball by sub Meunier.

For Christian...Lukaku dedicates his opener to Inter team-mate Eriksen

BELGIUM LIVE UP TO THEIR NO.1 TAG

This was an impressive opening parade by the team sitting No.1 in the FIFA world rankings going into the tournament. Scepticism that this was a side now past its best was brushed aside in convincing fashion, led by a lively Romelu Lukaku fresh from winning Serie A with Internazionale. And all without the still recuperating Kevin De Bruyne.

MATTER OF FACT

Lukaku's double took him to 62 goals in 94 international games, including 20 in his last 15.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 2PM

RUSSIA (1) 1
(Miranchuk 45+2)
FINLAND (0) 0

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 24,540. Ref: Makkelie (Ned)

RUSSIA Safonov; Fernandes (Karavayev 26), Barinov, Diveyev, Dzhikiya, Kuzyaev; Zobnin, Ozdoyev (Zhemaletdinov 61); Miranchuk (Mukhin 85), Golovin; Dzyuba (Sobolev 85)
Barinov, Ozdoyev, Dzhikiya.

FINLAND Hradecky; Raitala (Soiri 75), Toivio (Jensen 85), Arajuuri, O'Shaughnessy, Uronen; Lod, Schuller (Kauko 67), Kamara; Pukki (Lappalainen 75), Pohjanpalo
Kamara, O'Shaughnessy

GOALS

1-0 After a one-two with Artem Dzyuba on the edge of the box, Aleksei Miranchuk displays nimble footwork and finds just enough space among a crowd of defenders to curl a fine shot into the top corner with his left foot.

Disallowed...Joel Pohjanpalo's headed goal is ruled out

VAR DENIES POINT FOR FINLAND

Finland would have qualified for the knockout stages with victory in St Petersburg after their previous win against Denmark. Instead, it was Russia who rescued their hopes with a narrow triumph in a hard-fought encounter, leaving all to play for in the final two matches of the group. Joel Pohjanpalo had a headed goal ruled out for offside before Aleksei Miranchuk's winner on the stroke of half-time. The VAR intervention was desperately tight, and proved to be the crucial moment.

MATTER OF FACT

Russia ended a six-match winless run at the European Championship, nine years after beating Czech Republic 4-1 in 2012.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BELGIUM	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
DENMARK	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
FINLAND	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
RUSSIA	3	1	0	2	2	7	3

GROUP B

THURSDAY 17 JUNE, 5PM

DENMARK (1) 1
(Poulsen 2)

BELGIUM (0) 2
(T. Hazard 55, De Bruyne 70)

Parken Stadium, Copenhagen
Att: 23,395. Ref: Kuipers (Ned)

DENMARK Schmeichel; Christensen, Kjaer, Vestergaard (Skov Olsen 84); Waas (Stryger Larsen 61), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Jensen 72), Maehle; Damsgaard (Cornelius 72), Poulsen (Norgaard 61), Braithwaite
Wass, Damsgaard, Jensen

BELGIUM Courtois; Alderweireld, Denayer, Vertonghen; Meunier, Dendoncker (Witsel 59), Tielemans, T. Hazard (Vermaelen 90+4); Mertens (De Bruyne 46), Lukaku, Carrasco (E. Hazard 59)
T. Hazard

GOALS

1-0 Sloppy play in defence by Belgium's Jason Denayer gifts Yussuf Poulsen a goal, the second-fastest in a match in Euros' history.
1-1 Thorgan Hazard equalises, handed a simple chance by the skill, guile and vision of Kevin De Bruyne in beating two defenders.
1-2 De Bruyne's winner was pure class, sweeping home left-footed after good combination play by the Belgians.

Game-changer... De Bruyne

DE BRUYNE TURNS THE TIDE

Belgium qualified for the second round with a comeback win in a match full of passion and emotion. Denmark, fired up to play well for the stricken Christian Eriksen, scored after just 99 seconds but paid the price for not converting more chances in a dominant first half. Kevin De Bruyne's introduction as a half-time substitute changed the dynamic completely and he inspired Belgium to a narrow victory.

MATTER OF FACT

Play was stopped in the tenth minute in order to pay tribute to Denmark's Christian Eriksen.

MONDAY 21 JUNE, 8PM

FINLAND (0) 0

BELGIUM (0) 2
(Hradecky 74 og, Lukaku 81)

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 18,545. Ref: Brych (Ger)

FINLAND Hradecky; Raitala, Toivio, Arajuuri, O'Shaughnessy, Uronen (Alho 70); Lod (Forss 90+1), Sparv (Schuller 59), Kamara; Pohjanpalo (Kauko 70), Pukki (Jensen 90+1)

BELGIUM Courtois; Denayer, Boyata, Vermaelen; Trossard (Meunier 75), De Bruyne (Vanaken 90+1), Witsel, Chadli; Doku (Batshuayi 76), Lukaku, E. Hazard (Benteke 84)

GOALS

0-1 From a corner, a Thomas Vermaelen back-post header hits the woodwork and rebounds back into the net off the unfortunate Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky.
0-2 A trademark Belgium move: Kevin De Bruyne slips a ball into Romelu Lukaku in the penalty area and, with his back to the defender, the powerful striker spins his man and buries a fierce shot past the keeper all in one movement.

Own goal...Hradecky scrambles in vain to keep the ball out

BELGIUM SWEEP FINLAND ASIDE

Belgium claimed a 100 per cent record with a third group-stage victory despite manager Roberto Martinez selecting a much-changed side. They took time to break down a stubborn Finnish defence, who knew a draw would mean progress to the knockout stage, but two late goals came after Romelu Lukaku had another effort ruled out by VAR for the most marginal of "big-toe" offsides.

MATTER OF FACT

Belgium's victory was their 22nd in 26 internationals, with just one defeat in that time, underlining their world No.1 status.

MONDAY 21 JUNE, 8PM

DENMARK (1) 4
(Damsgaard 38, Poulsen 59, Christensen 79, Maehle 82)

RUSSIA (0) 1
(Dzyuba 70 pen)

Parken Stadium, Copenhagen
Att: 23,644. Ref: Turpin (Fra)

DENMARK Schmeichel; Christensen, Kjaer, Vestergaard; Wass (Stryger Larsen 60), Hojbjerg, Delaney (Jensen 85), Maehle; Damsgaard (Norgaard 72), Poulsen, (Dolberg 60), Braithwaite (Cornelius 85)
Delaney

RUSSIA Safonov; Fernandes, Diveyev, Dzhikiya, Kudryashov (Karavayev 67), Kuzyaev (Mukhin 67); Zobnin, Odzoyev (Zhemaletdinov 61); Miranchuk (Sobolev 61), Golovin; Dzyuba
Kudryashov, Diveyev

GOALS

1-0 Mikkel Damsgaard, the young stand-in for Christian Eriksen, curls in a long-range stunner.
2-0 A hopeless back-pass from Roman Zobnin gifts a tap-in to Yussuf Poulsen.
2-1 Artem Dyzuba nets a debatable penalty after a clumsy challenge from Jannik Vestergaard.
3-1 Defender Andreas Christensen smashes home a rocket shot from 25 yards.
4-1 Man of the Match Joakim Maehle calmly strokes home to finish a fine counter-attack.

Curler...Damsgaard opens the scoring

RUSSIA BLOWN AWAY BY THE DANES

Denmark rode another wave of emotion to overwhelm Russia and earn second spot. It had echoes of the nation's all-time most memorable home match, a 4-2 victory against the Soviet Union in 1985, with players, crowd and people totally united around the country. The difference this time was that the whole world of football was watching, and willing the Danes to victory.

MATTER OF FACT

Denmark became the first team in Euros history to lose their first two games and still qualify.

GROUP C

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 5PM

AUSTRIA (1) 3
(Lainer 18, Gregoritsch 78, Arnautovic 89)

N MACEDONIA (1) 1
(Pandev 28)

National Arena, Bucharest
Att: 9,082 Ref: Ekberg (Swe)

AUSTRIA Bachmann; Dragovic (Lienhart 46), Alaba, Hinteregger; X. Schlager (Ilsanker 90+4); Lainer, Laimer (Baumgartlinger 90+3), Sabitzer, Ulmer; Kalajdzic (Arnautovic 59), Baumgartner (Gregoritsch 58)
Lainer

N MACEDONIA Dimitrievski; Nikolov (Bejtulai 63), S. Ristovski, Velkovski, Musliu (M. Ristovski 86), Alioski; Bardhi (Trichkovski 82), Ademi, Elmas; Pandev, Trajkovski (Kostadinov 63)
Trajkovski, Alioski

GOALS

1-0 A searching cross-field pass by Marcel Sabitzer is finished on the volley at the back post by raiding right wing-back Stefan Lainer.
1-1 Martin Hinteregger's clearance hits Sabitzer, before David Alaba, Aleksandar Trajkovski and Daniel Bachmann collide to give Goran Pandev the chance to tap-in a comical equaliser.
2-1 Sub Michael Gregoritsch meets Alaba's cross at the near post to restore Austria's lead.
3-1 After a clever combination with Konrad Laimer, Marko Arnautovic seals the victory.

Punished...Arnautovic was suspended for his celebration

AUSTRIA'S FIRST-EVER EUROS WIN

Austria spoiled North Macedonia's debut at a major tournament and collected their first-ever win at the Euros. After scoring, Arnautovic, of Serbian stock, aimed insults towards Ezgjan Alioski, who has Albanian roots. UEFA handed him a one-match ban for insulting an opponent but did not consider his actions discriminatory.

MATTER OF FACT

Austria scored more goals in this game (3) than in their previous six Euros games combined (2).

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 8PM

NETHERLANDS (0) 3
(Wijnaldum 52, Weghorst 58, Dumfries 85)

UKRAINE (0) 2
(Yarmolenko 75, Yaremchuk 79)

Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam
Att: 15,837 Ref: Brych (Ger)

NETHERLANDS Stekelenburg; Dumfries, Timber (Veltman 88), De Vrij, Blind (Ake 64), Van Aanholt (Wijndal 64); De Roon, Wijnaldum, F. De Jong; Weghorst (L. De Jong 88), Depay (Malen 90+1)

UKRAINE Bushchan; Karavayev, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Mykolenko; Malinovskyi, Sydorchuk, Zinchenko; Yarmolenko, Yaremchuk, Zubkov (Marlos 13, Shaparenko 64)
Sydorchuk

GOALS

1-0 Keeper Heorhiy Bushchan only gets a hand to a Denzel Dumfries cross, and the on-rushing Georginio Wijnaldum scores the rebound.
2-0 Dumfries penetrates into the penalty area. Eventually the ball lands at the feet of Wout Weghorst, whose shot beats Bushchan.
2-1 Andriy Yarmolenko cuts inside and strikes a 25-yard thunderbolt into the top corner.
2-2 Roman Yaremchuk glances in a quality Ruslan Malinovskyi free-kick from the left wing.
3-2 A back-post header by Dumfries, after a Nathan Ake cross, leads to the Dutch victory.

Third time lucky...Dumfries celebrates scoring

NETHERLANDS WIN THRILLER

Before the match Frank de Boer was criticised for his 5-3-2 system, but he was proved right by the display of wing-back Denzel Dumfries, who provided two assists and the late winner. The Dutch controlled the game but lapses of concentration almost cost them dearly.

MATTER OF FACT

This defeat meant Ukraine matched the Euros record for the longest losing run (six games).

THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2PM

UKRAINE (2) 2
(Yarmolenko 29, Yaremchuk 34)

N MACEDONIA (0) 1
(Alioski 57)

National Arena, Bucharest
Att: 10,001 Ref: Rapallini (Arg)

UKRAINE Bushchan; Karavayev, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Mykolenko; Shaparenko (Sydorchuk 78), Stepanenko, Zinchenko; Yarmolenko (Tsyhankov 70), Yaremchuk (Besyedin 70), Malinovskyi (Sobol 90+2)
Shaparenko

N MACEDONIA Dimitrievski; Nikolov (Trajkovski 46), S. Ristovski, Velkovski (Trichkovski 85), Musliu, Alioski; Ademi (Ristevski 85), Spirovski (Churlinov 46), Bardhi (Avramovski 77); Elmas, Pandev
Velkovski, Avramovski

GOALS

1-0 Andriy Yarmolenko scores from close range at the back post after a corner is flicked into his path by right-back Oleksandr Karavayev.
2-0 A one-touch pass by Yarmolenko sends Roman Yaremchuk through on goal, who coolly slides the ball into the bottom right corner.
2-1 Goran Pandev is fouled in the area by Karavayev. Ezgjan Alioski's penalty is saved by Heorhiy Bushchan, but he converts the rebound.

Opener...Karavayev celebrates with Yarmolenko

UKRAINE END NINE-YEAR WAIT

By winning this Eastern European encounter, Ukraine clinched their first Euros victory since 2012. Since that 2-1 win over Sweden, six games were lost before the Yaremchuk-Yarmolenko tandem gave Andriy Shevchenko's side a 2-0 lead at half-time. The Balkan boys mounted a second-half comeback in a match with two missed penalties (Alioski and Ruslan Malinovskyi), but they couldn't prevent a second defeat.

MATTER OF FACT

Fernando Rapallini is the first referee from another confederation to officiate at the Euros.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NETHERLANDS	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
AUSTRIA	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
UKRAINE	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
NORTH MACEDONIA	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

GROUP C

THURSDAY JUNE 17, 8PM

NETHERLANDS (1) 2
(Depay 11 pen, Dumfries 67)
AUSTRIA (0) 0

Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam
Att: 15,243. Ref: Grinfeld (Isr)

NETHERLANDS Stekelenburg; Dumfries, De Vrij, De Ligt, Blind (Ake 64), Van Aanholt (Wijndal 65); De Roon (Gravenberch 74), Wijnaldum, F. De Jong; Weghorst (Malen 64), Depay (L. De Jong 82)
De Roon

AUSTRIA Bachmann; Lainer, Dragovic (Lienhart 84), Alaba, Hinteregger, Ulmer; Laimer (Grillitsch 61), X. Schlager (Onisiwo 84), Sabitzer; Gregoritsch (Kalajdzic 62), Baumgartner (Lazaro 70)
Alaba, Bachmann

GOALS

1-0 David Alaba treads on the foot of Denzel Dumfries on the edge of the penalty area and VAR awards a spot-kick, which Memphis Depay subsequently buries low to the keeper's right.
2-0 Depay releases substitute Donyell Malen, who beats the offside trap. The PSV striker runs through on goal and selflessly squares it to give Dumfries his second goal of the tournament.

Penalty...Alaba impedes Dumfries

DOMINANT DUTCH WIN AGAIN

Just like in the first match, the Netherlands showed their opponents that they are the team to beat in Group C. With the return of Matthijs de Ligt the defence was as solid as a rock, giving the Austrians no opportunity to score, while Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong controlled the tempo in midfield. In the end a penalty by Depay and another goal for Dumfries made the difference in what should have been a victory by a much larger margin.

MATTER OF FACT

By scoring in both of his first two games at the Euros finals, Dumfries matched the exploits of striker Ruud van Nistelrooy at Euro 2004.

MONDAY JUNE 21, 5PM

UKRAINE (0) 0
AUSTRIA (1) 1
(Baumgartner 21)

National Arena, Bucharest
Att: 10,472. Ref: Cakir (Tur)

UKRAINE Bushchan; Karavayev, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Mykolenko (Besyedin 85); Shaparenko (Marlos 68), Sydorchuk, Zinchenko; Yarmolenko, Yaremchuk, Malinovskyi (Tsyhanov 46)

AUSTRIA Bachmann; Lainer, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Alaba; X. Schlager, Grillitsch; Laimer (Ilsanker 72), Sabitzer, Baumgartner (Schopf 32); Arnautovic (Kalajdzic 90)

GOALS

0-1 Christoph Baumgartner sticks a foot out to steer in an out-swinging David Alaba corner.

Dejected...Ukraine's Oleksandr Zinchenko

AUSTRIA FAIL TO CO-OPERATE IN DRAW

Austria and Ukraine could have cut a deal: a draw would have seen both teams progress to the knockout stages. However, the Austrians were eager to win against a team that showed little initiative. The only goal of the game was scored by a player that probably shouldn't have been on the pitch. Just minutes before scoring, Christoph Baumgartner suffered a knock to the head after a collision with Ilya Zabarnyi, and in the 32nd minute the Hoffenheim attacker left the pitch due to the injury. He told Austrian broadcaster ORF afterwards: "I can't quite comprehend it all, my head is really hurting!"

MATTER OF FACT

Austria have achieved qualification for the knockout round at a major tournament for the first time since the "Disgrace of Gijon" at the 1982 World Cup, when a 1-0 defeat to West Germany meant both teams went through at the expense of Algeria.

MONDAY JUNE 21, 5PM

NETHERLANDS (1) 3
(Depay 24, Wijnaldum 51, 58)
N MACEDONIA (0) 0

Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam
Att: 15,227. Ref: Kovacs (Rou)

NETHERLANDS Stekelenburg; Dumfries (Berghuis 46), De Vrij (Timber 46), De Ligt, Blind, Van Aanholt; F. De Jong (Gakpo 79), Wijnaldum, Gravenberch; Depay (Weghorst 66), Malen (Promes 66)

N MACEDONIA Dimitrievski; S. Ristovski, Velkovski, Musliu, Alioski; Bardhi (Stojanovski 78), Ademi (Nikolov 78); Trichkovski (Churlinov 56), Elmas, Trajkovski (Hasani 68); Pandev (Kostadinov 69)
S. Ristovski, Musliu, Alioski, Kostadinov

GOALS

1-0 During a blistering counter-attack, Memphis Depay and Donyell Malen outrun the Macedonian defence before Malen provides an easy tap-in for Depay.
2-0 A ball squared across goal by Depay is finished from close range by Gini Wijnaldum.
3-0 Wijnaldum scores after Stole Dimitrievski pushes a Depay effort straight into his path.

Guard of honour...Pandev leaves the pitch for the final time

DUTCH SECURE MAXIMUM POINTS

In a match that had nothing at stake, the Netherlands clinched maximum points by defeating North Macedonia 3-0. Despite an early threat by their opponents, with a shot hitting the post and a disallowed goal, the Dutch took matters into their own hands. Frank de Boer's team wasted several chances to gain a bigger win, but their third victory in three matches was never in danger.

MATTER OF FACT

Goran Pandev won his 122nd and final cap in a career that spans a period of 20 years. In the 69th minute his team-mates gave him a guard of honour when leaving the pitch.

GROUP D

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 2PM

ENGLAND (0) 1
(Sterling 57)

CROATIA (0) 0

Wembley, London
Att: 18,497. Ref: Orsato (Ita)

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker, Stones, Mings, Trippier; Phillips, Rice; Foden (Rashford 71), Mount, Sterling (Calvert-Lewin 90+2); Kane (Bellingham 82)
■ Foden

CROATIA Livakovic; Vrsaljko, Caleta-Car, Vida, Gvardiol; Brozovic (Vlasic 70), Modric, Kovacic (Pasalic 85); Kramaric (Brekalo 70), Perisic, Rebic (Petkovic 78)
■ Caleta-Car, Kovacic, Brozovic

GOALS

1-0 The outstanding Kalvin Phillips forces his way through Croatia's midfield shield and sets up Raheem Sterling to score his first goal in a major international tournament.

Winner...Sterling bundles home England's winner

ENGLAND SECURE WORLD CUP REVENGE

England made history by winning their opening match at the Euros for the first time. Raheem Sterling's second-half winner avenged their semi-final defeat to Croatia at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. England charged forward from kick-off to try to settle the game before being worn down by the afternoon heat. In the fifth minute Phil Foden cut in from the right and curled a shot against the keeper's right-hand post. Minutes later Kalvin Phillips had a low drive well saved by the keeper Dominik Livakovic. After that England and their fans had to wait for the second-half breakthrough.

MATTER OF FACT

England substitute Jude Bellingham became the youngest player, at 17 years 349 days old, to appear at the Euro finals and the youngest England player in any major tournament.

Possession	52%	48%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	8(2)	8(1)
Corners	1	1
Fouls	9	10

MONDAY JUNE 14, 2PM

SCOTLAND (0) 0

CZECH REPUBLIC (1) 2
(Schick 42, 52)

Hampden Park, Glasgow
Att: 9,847. Ref: Siebert (Ger)

SCOTLAND Marshall; Hendry (McGregor 67), Hanley, Cooper; O'Donnell (Forrest 79), Armstrong (Fraser 67), McGinn, McTominay, Robertson; Christie (Adams 46), Dykes (Nisbet 79)

CZECH REPUBLIC Vaclik; Coufal, Celustka, Kalas, Boril; Soucek, Kral (Holes 67); Masopust (Vydra 72), Darida (Sevcik 87), Jankto (Hlozek 72); Schick (Krmencik, 87)

GOALS

0-1 The Czechs force three corners in succession after which Patrik Schick rises above Grant Hanley and Liam Cooper to head home Vladimir Coufal's right-wing cross.

0-2 Jack Hendry's optimistic long-range shot is blocked and rebounds back past him for Schick to hit a magnificent curling lob over the backpedalling David Marshall.

Stunner...Patrik Schick celebrates scoring from the halfway line

CZECHS RUIN SCOTLAND'S RETURN

The euphoria around Scotland's first game at a major tournament in 23 years subsided in defeat. Qualifying hero David Marshall saved well from Schick in the opening exchanges before the Scots took control and created chances that were wasted by striker Lyndon Dykes and captain Andy Robertson. The Czechs responded ruthlessly with decisive goals in ten minutes either side of half-time by Schick. A late Scottish flurry saw a Stuart Armstrong shot deflected over the bar and Dykes bring a fortunate save from keeper Tomas Vaclik.

MATTER OF FACT

At 49.7 yards, Schick's second goal was the longest-range goal in Euros history.

Possession	56%	44%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	19(5)	10(7)
Corners	6	6
Fouls	6	6

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 5PM

CROATIA (0) 1
(Perisic 47)

CZECH REPUBLIC (1) 1
(Schick 37 pen)

Hampden Park, Glasgow
Att: 5,607. Ref: Del Cerro Grande (Spa)

CROATIA Livakovic; Vrsaljko, Lovren, Vida, Gvardiol; Modric, Kovacic (Brozovic 87); Perisic, Kramaric (Vlasic 62), Brekalo (Ivanusec 46); Rebic (Petkovic 46)
■ Lovren

CZECH REPUBLIC Vaclik; Coufal, Celustka, Kalas, Boril; Holes (Kral 63), Soucek; Masopust (Hlozek 63), Darida (Barak 87), Jankto (Sevcik 74); Schick (Krmencik 74)
■ Masopust, Boril, Hlozek

GOALS

0-1 Dejan Lovren clouts Patrik Schick's nose with his elbow in an aerial duel to concede a controversial penalty. Schick coolly converts.

1-1 Croatia catch the Czechs cold with a quick Andrej Kramaric free-kick, which enables Ivan Perisic to cut in from the left and equalise.

Controversial... Lovren's penalty-conceding elbow

SCHICK STRIKES AGAIN

The Czechs took a decisive step towards the last 16 after a draw featuring only three shots on target. They opened the scoring through a controversial first-half Schick penalty, after the referee had checked the pitchside monitor for a foul by returning defender Lovren. Schick's penalty made him the first player to score three times in their first two Euro games since Mario Mandzukic in 2012. Croatia responded straight after the break though, through a wonderful Perisic strike, and that's how it stayed.

MATTER OF FACT

Ivan Perisic became the first Croat to score in four separate major finals after his goals at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups, and Euro 2016.

Possession	50%	50%
Goal attempts (■ on target)	11(2)	11(1)
Corners	4	4
Fouls	7	12

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	4	2	1	0	2	0	7
CROATIA	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
CZECH REPUBLIC	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
SCOTLAND	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 8PM

ENGLAND (0) 0
SCOTLAND (0) 0

Wembley, London
Att: 22,306. Ref: Lahoz (Spa)

ENGLAND Pickford; James, Stones, Mings, Shaw; Rice, Phillips; Foden (Grealish 63), Mount, Sterling; Kane (Rashford 74)

SCOTLAND Marshall; McTominay, Hanley, Tierney; O'Donnell, McGinn, Gilmour (Armstrong 76), McGregor, Robertson; Dykes, Adams (Nisbet 86)
McGinn, O'Donnell

Battle...Kalvin Phillips clashes with Andy Robertson

DULL DERBY STALEMATE

England produced one of their poorest performances under manager Gareth Southgate in what was billed as one of the biggest matches of the group stage. They never adjusted to the aggressive energy of Scotland, who raised their game remarkably after the opening defeat by Czech Republic. John Stones headed against a post after 11 minutes but England created little else. Labouring captain Harry Kane had to be substituted for Marcus Rashford, too late to make any difference. Scotland had their own chances. Stephen O'Donnell drew a sharp save from Jordan Pickford on the half-hour and Lyndon Dykes was denied a 60th-minute winner by a goal-line clearance from Reece James. Chelsea midfielder Billy Gilmour, 20, was named UEFA's official Star of the Match after an impressive, all-action first start for Scotland.

MATTER OF FACT

This was the 115th meeting of England and Scotland since the first-ever international match in Glasgow on November 30, 1872, which was also a goalless draw. However, this was their first ever 0-0 draw at Wembley.

TUESDAY JUNE 22, 8PM

ENGLAND (1) 1
(Sterling 12)
CZECH REPUBLIC (0) 0

Wembley, London
Att: 19,104. Ref: Dias (Por)

ENGLAND Pickford; Walker, Stones (Mings 79), Maguire, Shaw; Phillips, Rice (Henderson 46); Saka (Sancho 84), Grealish (Bellingham 68), Sterling (Rashford 67); Kane

CZECH REPUBLIC Vaclik; Coufal, Celustka, Kalas, Boril; Holes (Vydra 84), Soucek; Masopust (Hlozek 64), Darida (Kral 64), Jankto (Sevcik 46); Schick (Pekhart 75)
Boril

GOALS

1-0 Bukayo Saka escapes down the right wing before switching play to the left. Harry Kane feeds Jack Grealish, whose cross is nodded home by Raheem Sterling from close range.

Scorer...Sterling celebrates his header

STERLING SILENCES HIS CRITICS

England secured top spot, along with entry to the round of 16, by beating and thus overtaking the Czechs. Raheem Sterling, the match-winner against Croatia, hit a post in the second minute before heading the only goal. The introduction of Jack Grealish in midfield and official Star of the Match Bukayo Saka on the right wing significantly improved the performance. Harry Maguire's return helped stabilise the defence, although the Czechs still had some dangerous moments: a shot from Tomas Holes that was well saved by Jordan Pickford, Tomas Soucek firing narrowly wide, and sub Tomas Pekhart failing to hit the target just before the end.

MATTER OF FACT

Jack Grealish registered his third England assist in this game, more than any other player since he made his debut in September 2020.

TUESDAY JUNE 22, 8PM

SCOTLAND (1) 1
(McGregor 42)
CROATIA (1) 3
(Vlasic 17, Modric 62, Perisic 77)

Hampden Park, Glasgow
Att: 9,896. Ref: Rapallini (Arg)

SCOTLAND Marshall; McTominay, Hanley (McKenna 33), Tierney; O'Donnell (Patterson 84), Armstrong (Fraser 70), McGregor, McGinn, Robertson; Dykes, Adams (Nisbet 84)
McKenna

CROATIA Livakovic; Juranovic, Lovren, Vida, Gvardiol (Barisic 70); Kovacic, Brozovic; Perisic (Rebic 81), Modric, Vlasic (Ivanusec 76); Petkovic (Kramaric 70)
Lovren

GOALS

0-1 Josip Juranovic crosses from the right and Ivan Perisic heads back for Nikola Vlasic to score.
1-1 Callum McGregor scores Scotland's first major tournament goal for 23 years after the ball falls to him on the edge of the penalty area.
1-2 Luka Modric restores Croatia's lead with a superb shot with the outside of his foot.
1-3 Perisic out-jumps Kieran Tierney to head home an in-swinging Modric corner.

Stunner...Modric watches his shot fly past David Marshall

MODRIC SHATTERS SCOTLAND'S DREAM

Croatia needed to win to qualify, and superb Luka Modric and his team-mates not only managed that but, in scoring three times, overtook the Czechs on goals scored to snatch the runners-up spot. Modric was masterful in midfield, while Scotland badly missed the energy of Billy Gilmour, quarantined after testing positive for COVID after the England game.

MATTER OF FACT

Defeat maintained Scotland's unwanted record of never having progressed to the knockout stages of a major international tournament.

GROUP E

MONDAY JUNE 14, 5PM

POLAND (0) 1
(Linetty 46)
SLOVAKIA (1) 2
(Szczesny 18 og, Skriniar 69)

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 12,862. Ref: Hategan (Rou)

POLAND Szczesny; Bereszynski, Glik, Bednarek; Jozwiak, Linetty (Frankowski 74), Krychowiak, Klich (Moder 85), Rybus (Puchacz 74); Zielinski (Swiderski 85), Lewandowski
■ Krychowiak ■ Krychowiak

SLOVAKIA Dubravka; Pekarik (Koscelnik 79), Satka, Skriniar, Hubocan; Kucka, Hromada (Hrosovsky 79); Haraslin (Duris 87), Hamsik, Mak (Suslov 87); Duda (Gregus 90+2)
■ Hubocan

GOALS

0-1 A tricky run into the box by Robert Mak foxes the Polish defence, his shot taking two deflections: a ricochet off the post and against keeper Wojciech Szczesny, before going in.
1-1 A neat Polish move ends with a pull-back on the touchline and a finish by Karol Linetty.
1-2 A striker's turn and shot by centre-back Milan Skriniar puts Slovakia back in the lead.

Sent off... Krychowiak sees red

SLOVAKIA SHOCK POLAND IN OPENER

Slovakia got off to a flying start with a surprise win over Poland, who played out the last half-hour with ten men. A superb opening goal engineered by Robert Mak was no more than the Slovaks deserved, captain Marek Hamsik putting in a fine performance in his last finals. Although Poland opened the second half with an equaliser, Slovakia went ahead again shortly after Grzegorz Krychowiak's red card.

MATTER OF FACT

Krychowiak's red card was the first of Euro 2020 and the first of his senior international career.

MONDAY JUNE 14, 8PM

SPAIN (0) 0
SWEDEN (0) 0

La Cartuja Stadium, Seville
Att: 10,559. Ref: Vincic (Svn)

SPAIN Simon; M. Llorente, Laporte, P. Torres, Alba; Koke (Fabian 87), Rodri (Thiago 66), Pedri; F. Torres (Oyarzabal 74), Morata (Sarabia 66), Olmo (Moreno 74)

SWEDEN Olsen; Lustig (Krafth 75), Lindelof, Danielson, Augustinsson; S. Larsson, Olsson (Cajuste 84), Ekdal, Forsberg (Bengtsson 84); Berg (Quaison 69), Isak (Claesson 69)
■ Lustig

Wasteful... Morata missed Spain's best chance on the night

CHANCES WASTED IN GOALLESS DRAMA

Spain and Sweden both missed a hatful of chances in a ding-dong game that somehow remained goalless. Striker Alvaro Morata was particularly profligate in front of goal, earning the wrath of the home crowd, while Sweden's Marcus Berg will long regret his open-goal miss after being squared the ball by the impressive Alexander Isak. The Swedes defended deep and broke quickly, while Spain needed to show more guile in front of goal, often missing the target when in good goalscoring positions.

TALKING POINT

Many questioned Luis Enrique's decision to leave the prolific Gerard Moreno on the bench while his fellow forwards spurned several goalscoring opportunities. Brought on with 15 minutes to go, the Villarreal man then headed straight at goalkeeper Robin Olsen on 90 minutes when it seemed easier to score.

MATTER OF FACT

According to Opta, the Spaniards completed more passes in this game than any team in European Championship history.

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2PM

SWEDEN (0) 1
(Forsberg pen 77)
SLOVAKIA (0) 0

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 11,525. Ref: Siebert (Ger)

SWEDEN Olsen; Lustig, Lindelof, Danielson, Augustinsson (Bengtsson 88); S. Larsson, Olsson (Claesson 64), Ekdal (Svensson 88) Forsberg (Krafth 90+3); Berg (Quaison 64), Isak
■ Olsson

SLOVAKIA Dubravka; Pekarik (Haraslin 64), Satka, Skriniar, Hubocan (Hancko 84); Kucka, Hrosovsky (Duris 84); Koscelnik, Hamsik, Benes 77), Mak (Weiss 77); Duda
■ Dubravka, Duda, Weiss

GOALS

1-0 Goalkeeper Martin Dubravka upends Robin Quaison as the Sweden forward bursts through on goal, then can do little about Emil Forsberg's forthright spot-kick, struck low into Dubravka's bottom left-hand corner.

Outrage...Dubravka protests the penalty decision

SWEDISH PENALTY SETTLES POOR GAME

In one of the worst matches of the tournament, played in scorching afternoon heat by two sides determined not to lose, Janne Andersson's well-drilled Sweden edged closer to qualification thanks to a late Emil Forsberg penalty. A timid Slovakia can have few complaints, except with the tactics set out by coach Stefan Tarkovic. For Sweden, electric Real Sociedad forward Alexander Isak again looked sharp, a weapon they'll need in the knockout stages.

MATTER OF FACT

This was the first time in Slovakia's history that they failed to record at least one shot on target in a major tournament match.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
SPAIN	3	1	1	1	6	1	4
SLOVAKIA	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
POLAND	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

GROUP E

SATURDAY JUNE 15, 8PM

SPAIN (1) 1
(Morata 25)

POLAND (0) 1
(Lewandowski 54)

La Cartuja Stadium, Seville
Att: 11,742. Ref: Orsato (Ita)

SPAIN Simon; M. Llorente, Laporte, P. Torres, Alba; Koke (Sarabia 68), Rodri, Pedri; Moreno (Fabian 68), Morata (Oyarzabal 87), Olmo (F. Torres 61)
■ P. Torres, Rodri

POLAND Szczesny; Bereszynski, Glik, Bednarek (Dawidowicz 85); Jozwiak, Moder (Linetty 85), Klich (Kozlowski 55), Zielinski, Puchacz; Swiderski (Frankowski 68), Lewandowski
■ Klich, Moder, Jozwiak, Lewandowski

GOALS

1-0 Alvaro Morata silences his critics by turning a low shot by Gerard Moreno into the Polish net. After originally being ruled out for offside, VAR overrules and awards the goal.
1-1 A powerful header by Robert Lewandowski, aided by a nudge on Aymeric Laporte, directs a looping Kamil Jozwiak cross into the net.

Another miss...Gerard Moreno's penalty strikes the post

FRANTIC DRAW SUITS POLAND

In a game that didn't let up for 90 minutes, Spain scored, then missed a penalty and an easy rebound to allow Poland to claim a well-deserved draw. The Poles also broke fast and incisively, Lewandowski a constant threat as the ball whizzed from box to box. Goalmouth melees saw a brave Wojciech Szczesny diving into a frantic blur of moving legs and arms to grab the ball. A point won, Polish players celebrated with their fans afterwards.

MATTER OF FACT

Poland coach Paulo Sousa sent on Kacper Kozlowski in the heat of the action just after half-time, making him the youngest player in Euros history at 17 years and 246 days.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 5PM

SWEDEN (1) 3
(Forsberg 2, 59, Claesson 90+4)

POLAND (0) 2
(Lewandowski 61, 84)

Krestovsky Stadium, St Petersburg
Att: 14,252. Ref: Oliver (Eng)

SWEDEN Olsen; Lustig (Krafth 68), Lindelof, Danielson, Augustinsson; S. Larsson, Ekdal, Olsson, Forsberg (Claesson 78); Quaison (Kulusevski 55), Isak (Berg 68)
■ Danielson

POLAND Szczesny; Bereszynski, Glik, Bednarek; Jozwiak (Swierczok 61), Krychowiak (Placheta 78), Klich (Kozlowski 73) Puchacz (Frankowski 46); Zielinski; Swiderski, Lewandowski
■ Krychowiak, Glik

GOALS

1-0 Nice work from Isak gets the ball out to Emil Forsberg, who scores with a diagonal shot.
2-0 A superb break from sub Dejan Kulusevski, who foxes the Polish defence and puts in the decisive Forsberg on the edge of the box.
2-1 Sheer class from Robert Lewandowski – his 20-yard curler gives Poland a lifeline.
2-2 Lewandowski puts Poland in dreamland, chasing an unlikely win, as he find space in the penalty area and punishes the Swedish defence.
3-2 A lovely pass from Kulusevski tricks the Polish back-line and puts in fellow sub Viktor Claesson, who scores from close range.

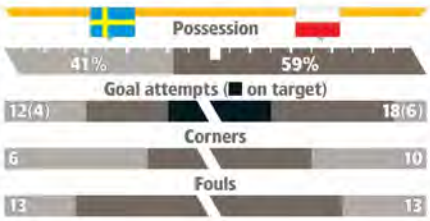
Talisman... Lewandowski gives Poland hope

SWEDEN DENY POLAND SPIRITED COMEBACK

A one-man comeback by a magnificent Robert Lewandowski put Poland in with a late chance versus Sweden, but ultimately the Scandinavians snuffed out Polish hopes to seal top spot.

MATTER OF FACT

Emil Forsberg's opener was the second-fastest Euros goal ever, behind Dmitri Kirichenko for Russia v Greece in 2004 (65 seconds).



WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 5PM

SPAIN (2) 5
(Dubravka 30 og, Laporte 45+3, Sarabia 56, F. Torres 67, Kucka 71 og)

SLOVAKIA (0) 0

La Cartuja Stadium, Seville
Att: 11,204. Ref: Kuipers (Ned)

SPAIN Simon; Azpilicueta (Oyarzabal 77), Garcia (P. Torres 71), Laporte, Alba; Koke, Busquets (Thiago 71), Pedri; Sarabia, Morata (F. Torres 66), Moreno (Traore 77)
■ Busquets, Jordi Alba

SLOVAKIA Dubravka; Pekarik, Satka, Skriniar, Hubocan; Kucka, Hromada (Lobotka 46); Haraslin (Suslov 69) Hamsik (Benes 90), Mak (Weiss 69); Duda (Duris 46)
■ Duda, Skriniar

GOALS

1-0 A bizarre goal breaks the deadlock. Shortly after saving a Spain penalty, Martin Dubravka tips a routine crossbar rebound into his own net.
2-0 More chaos in the Slovak penalty box as Pedri loops the ball in, Gerard Moreno lures out Dubravka and lobs the ball back for Aymeric Laporte to place his header into the far corner.
3-0 In a move typical of Spain's savvy passing all game, Jordi Alba picks out Pablo Sarabia from the flank and he gracefully sweeps the ball home.
4-0 On the pitch for 60 seconds, substitute Ferran Torres executes a classy close-range backheel from a low right-wing Sarabia cross.
5-0 Another own goal as Juraj Kucka bundles a Pau Torres header over his own goal-line.

Calamity... Dubravka fumbles into his own net

CAKEWALK FOR SPAIN

Spain overwhelmed a hapless Slovakia. An imperial Sergio Busquets, returning from COVID isolation, directed the midfield as his team-mates weaved clever patterns around him. The only negative was missing their fifth penalty in a row.

MATTER OF FACT

Spain became the fifth team to win by a five-goal margin at the European Championship in their 50th win at a major tournament.

GROUP F

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 5PM

HUNGARY (0) 0
PORTUGAL (0) 3
(Guerreiro 84, Cristiano Ronaldo 87 pen, 90+2)

Puskas Arena, Budapest
Att: 55,662. Ref: Cakir (Tur)

HUNGARY Gulacsi; Botka, Orban, At. Szalai; Lovrencsics, Kleinheisler, (Siger 78), Nagy (R. Varga 88), Schafer (Nego 65), Fiola (K. Varga 88); Sallai (Schon 77), Ad. Szalai
Nego, Orban

PORTUGAL Rui Patricio; Nelson Semedo, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Guerreiro; William (Renato Sanches 81), Danilo; Bernardo Silva (Rafa Silva 71), Bruno Fernandes (Joao Moutinho 89), Diogo Jota (Andre Silva 81); Cristiano Ronaldo
Ruben Dias

GOALS

0-1 A Raphael Guerreiro shot takes a wicked deflection into the net off stopper Willi Orban.
0-2 Portugal's late flurry turns out to be the Cristiano Ronaldo show, first converting a spot kick after Orban fouls substitute Rafa Silva.
0-3 Following a slick double one-two with Rafa Silva, Cristiano Ronaldo dances around keeper Peter Gulacsi before slotting home.

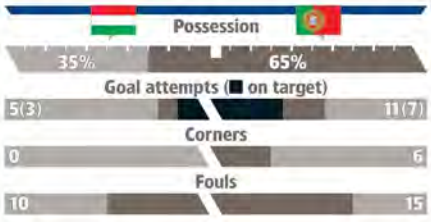
Game over...Ronaldo scores the third

DOGGED, RESILIENT HUNGARY

After spending the bulk of the match failing to translate territorial dominance into scoreboard advantage, Portugal produced their "get out of jail" card at the death. However, they needed a substantial slice of luck to eventually break the deadlock, before Ronaldo put his stamp on the match and the tournament for the first time. Tough luck indeed on Hungary, who responded magnificently to the vociferous backing of a near-capacity crowd at the Puskas Arena.

MATTER OF FACT

Ronaldo's brace marked his 10th and 11th goals at the Euros, overtaking Michel Platini as the most prolific marksman in the tournament's history.



TUESDAY JUNE 15, 8PM

GERMANY (0) 0
FRANCE (1) 1
(Hummels 20 og)

Allianz Arena, Munich
Att: 13,000. Ref: Del Cerro Grande (Spa)

GERMANY Neuer; Ginter (Can 88), Hummels, Rudiger; Kimmich, Gundogan, Kroos, Gosens (Volland 88); Havertz (Sane 74), Muller, Gnabry (Werner 74)
Kimmich

FRANCE Lloris; Pavard, Varane, Kimpembe, Hernandez; Kante, Pogba, Rabiot (Dembele 90+4); Griezmann, Benzema (Tolisso 89), Mbappe

GOALS

0-1 Paul Pogba is the chief architect of the move, picking out left-back Lucas Hernandez with a sublime swish of the outside of the foot, and his drilled cross was diverted in by Germany centre-back Mats Hummels.

Own goal...Hummels slices into his own net

FRANCE PROVE TOO STRONG

Superior both individually and collectively, France deservedly emerged victorious in this Clash of the Titans in Munich. Joachim Low's Germany simply had no answer to the trump cards of *Les Bleus*: their rock-solid rearguard, cuteness on the counter, Kylian Mbappe's extreme pace and the all-singing, all-dancing Paul Pogba in midfield. While the *Nationalmannschaft* created very little, France were a threat whenever they broke and had two further goals – courtesy of Mbappe and Karim Benzema – ruled out for offside. Needless to say, both of those disallowed efforts were set up by the inimitable Pogba.

MATTER OF FACT

This was Germany's first-ever defeat in a European Championship opener.

SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2PM

HUNGARY (1) 1
(Fiola 45+2)
FRANCE (0) 1
(Griezmann 66)

Puskas Arena, Budapest
Att: 55,998. Ref: Oliver (Eng)

HUNGARY Gulacsi; Botka, Orban, At. Szalai; Nego, Kleinheisler (Lovrencsics 84), Nagy, Schafer (Cseri 75), Fiola; Sallai, Ad. Szalai (Nikolic 26)
Botka

FRANCE Lloris; Pavard, Varane, Kimpembe, Digne; Pogba (Tolisso 76), Kante, Rabiot (Dembele 57, Lemar 87); Griezmann, Benzema (Giroud 76), Mbappe
Pavard

GOALS

1-0 Wing-back Attila Fiola combines with the excellent Roland Sallai before barrelling forward and burying the ball into the bottom corner.
1-1 Kylian Mbappe latches onto a long, route-one Hugo Lloris clearance and sends in a cross, which is deflected into the path of Antoine Griezmann to slot home.

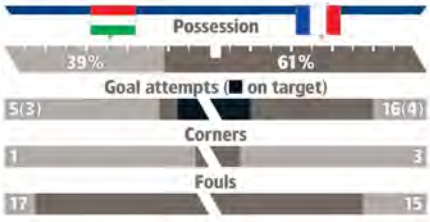
Shock...Attila Fiola celebrates scoring the opening goal

NEAR-MISS FOR WORLD CHAMPIONS

It cannot be stressed enough how close we came to one of the all-time great European Championship upsets. Roared on by a full house at the Puskas Arena, Hungary gave the World Cup 2018 winners the fright of their lives. The hosts, so cleverly set up by coach Marco Rossi, did not merely construct a red wall of resistance: they were strong in possession and not at all afraid to attack.

MATTER OF FACT

Hungary became the first team to avoid defeat against France at a major tournament since Denmark's 0-0 draw with *Les Bleus* in Russia.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
GERMANY	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
PORTUGAL	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
HUNGARY	3	0	2	1	3	6	2

GROUP F

SATURDAY JUNE 19, 5PM

GERMANY (2) 4
(Ruben Dias 35 og, Guerreiro 39 og, Havertz 51, Gosens 60)

PORTUGAL (1) 2
(Cristiano Ronaldo 15, Diogo Jota 67)

Allianz Arena, Munich
Att: 12,296, Ref: Taylor (Eng)

GERMANY Neuer; Ginter, Hummels (Can 62), Rudiger; Kimmich, Gundogan (Sule 73), Kroos, Gosens (Halstenberg 62); Havertz (Goretzka 73), Muller, Gnabry, (Sane 87)
Havertz, Ginter

PORTUGAL Rui Patricio; Nelson Semedo, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Guerreiro; William (Rafa Silva 58), Danilo; Bernardo Silva (Renato Sanches 46), Bruno Fernandes (Joao Moutinho 64), Diogo Jota (Andre Silva); Cristiano Ronaldo

GOALS

0-1 Ronaldo finishes a rapid, ruthless counter-attack that began with him clearing a corner.
1-1 Ruben Dias deflects Robin Gosens' volleyed cross past his own goalkeeper.
2-1 Raphael Guerreiro commits a similar *faux pas* following a Joshua Kimmich cut-back.
3-1 A flowing move ends with another Gosens cross and a simple tap-in for Kai Havertz.
4-1 Provider turns goalscorer as Gosens arrives at the back post to head home.
4-2 Ronaldo hooks the ball back in from the touchline for Jota to finish from close range.

Man of the Match... Robin Gosens

SIX-GOAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Just four days after succumbing to France, the Germans impressively set the record straight in an open, entertaining thriller with Portugal. Despite going behind, Germany held their nerve, causing their opponents no end of problems with their verve and creativity in wide areas supplied by wing-backs Kimmich and Gosens.

MATTER OF FACT

No reigning champions had ever conceded four goals in a Euros match before this game.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 8PM

GERMANY (0) 2
(Havertz 66, Goretzka 84)

HUNGARY (1) 2
(Ad. Szalai 11, Schafer 68)

Allianz Arena, Munich
Att: 12,413, Ref: Karasev (Rus)

GERMANY Neuer; Ginter (Volland 82), Hummels, Rudiger; Kimmich, Gundogan (Goretzka 58), Kroos, Gosens (Musiala 82); Havertz (Werner 67), Sane, Gnabry (Muller 67)
Gundogan, Sane

HUNGARY Gulacsi; Botka, Orban, At. Szalai; Nego, Kleinheisler (Lovrencsics 89), Nagy, Schafer, Fiola (Nikolic 88); Sallai (Schon 75), Ad. Szalai (K. Varga 82)
Botka, Ad. Szalai, Fiola

GOALS

0-1 Adam Szalai scores with a fine diving header from Roland Sallai's whipped cross.
1-1 Peter Gulasci badly misjudges a cross, allowing Mats Hummels to head across the box for Kai Havertz to nod in from close range.
1-2 Just 90 seconds later, Andras Schafer bravely stoops to nod past Manuel Neuer.
2-2 Hungary fail to clear a Jamal Musiala cross, allowing Leon Goretzka to fire in a shot that takes a deflection before finding the net.

German saviour...Goretzka scores the late equaliser

GERMANS SURVIVE MAJOR SCARE

On a night of sogginess and struggle in Munich, Germany snuck into the last 16. For much of the 90 minutes, they were on track for early elimination, but with the clock ticking down sub Leon Goretzka saved the day. This was anything but a vintage German display: porous defensively, muddled in their approach play and lacking penetration. Excellent in their own right, Hungary proved much more than makeweights.

MATTER OF FACT

At 18 years and 117 days, Jamal Musiala became the youngest-ever player to make an appearance for Germany at a major international tournament.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 8PM

PORTUGAL (1) 2
(Cristiano Ronaldo pen 31, pen 60)

FRANCE (1) 2
(Benzema pen 45+2, 47)

Puskas Arena, Budapest
Att: 54,886, Ref: Lahoz (Spa)

PORTUGAL Rui Patricio; Nelson Semedo (Diogo Dalot 79), Pepe, Ruben Dias, Guerreiro; Renato Sanches (Sergio Oliveira 87), Danilo (Joao Palhinha 46), Joao Moutinho (Ruben Neves 73); Bernardo Silva (Bruno Fernandes 72), Cristiano Ronaldo, Diogo Jota

FRANCE Lloris; Kounde, Varane, Kimpembe, Hernandez (Digne 46, Rabiot 52); Pogba, Kante; Tolisso (Coman 66), Griezmann (Sissoko 87), Mbappe; Benzema
Lloris, Hernandez, Griezmann, Kimpembe

GOALS

1-0 Hugo Lloris comes for a cross and ends up punching Danilo in the head. Ronaldo takes the resulting spot-kick and duly fires home.
1-1 Semedo is controversially adjudged to have fouled Mbappe with a nudge. Benzema scores the penalty – his first goal for France for six years.
1-2 Benzema strikes again, darting onto Pogba's inch-perfect through ball and finishing expertly.
2-2 Another penalty, another Ronaldo goal – this time following a Jules Kounde handball.

Former team-mates...Ronaldo and Benzema

DRAW SUITS BOTH PARTIES

Everybody went home happy from this topsy-turvy remake of the Euro 2016 final, with both sides progressing. Fussy referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz awarded no fewer than three penalties, all imperiously converted by Ronaldo and Benzema. Portugal keeper Rui Patricio also caught the eye with a spectacular double save to deny Paul Pogba and Antoine Griezmann.

MATTER OF FACT

Ronaldo's 108th and 109th goals for Portugal brought him level with Iran's Ali Daei on the all-time list of men's international goalscorers.

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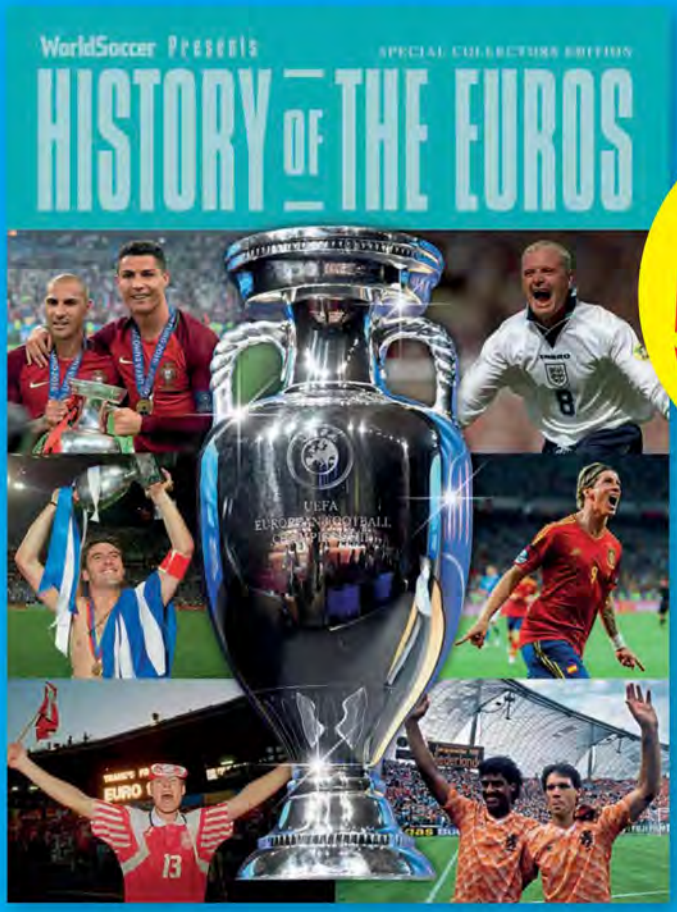

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Messi finally wins his first major international trophy

Copa America review by Carl Worswick

THE FINAL

ARGENTINA 1
(Di Maria 22)
BRAZIL 0

It was the scraggy plaster taped over the gaping wound, the grand finale of a controversial tournament besieged by problems, that few had even wanted to play, but that had spat out the dream end tie. Right at the death, football had found the script.

After 28 long years without an international trophy, two Copa America final penalty shootout defeats to Chile in recent years and an agonising extra-time loss in the 2014 World Cup final against Germany, Argentina are celebrating once again.

Against swashbuckling Brazil, kings of the continent over the past few years and firm tournament favourites from the start, Angel Di Maria's first-half strike sealed a surprise 1-0 win to hand Argentina a joint-record 15th Copa America trophy.

In football's oldest international tournament, between the game's fiercest rivals, a bold and tactically brilliant plan from manager Lionel Scaloni had provided a fairy-tale end to an ugly and wretched tournament blitzed with problems.

For one man though, victory tasted especially sweet. Starring in his fifth major final, Lionel Messi had lost all previous attempts at glory with his country. At 34, time was running out.

The world's greatest player lifted a trophy that even the late Diego Maradona had failed to win

But in the near mythical Maracana, that Brazilian graveyard of ghosts of yesteryear, the world's greatest player lifted a trophy that even the late Diego Maradona had failed to win.

Finally, the critics could be silenced. Those who had questioned Messi's commitment to the Argentine cause, the naysayers who had played no small role in forcing the Barcelona megastar to temporarily retire from international football after the 2016 Copa America loss to Chile, were forced to eat their words. The hoodoo had been lifted and the title Messi had so desperately craved was in his hands. Nobody could begrudge the little magician his crown; few would now dare argue his place among the pantheon of the greats.

As the final whistle rang out in the virtually empty Rio stadium, the drained and emotional number ten collapsed to his knees, relief exhumed in one giant release of the lungs. Within moments he was buried under the entire Argentinian squad. This was the moment he had been waiting for. With a smile plastered across his face, he wriggled out of the human heap only to be tossed in the air by jubilant team-mates only too aware of the Copa's significance to their star man. Back home, thousands of fans spilled onto the streets of Buenos Aires to also celebrate a hero.

All tournament Messi had driven his country to success. With four goals and five assists, the Argentine had played a key part in every single goal on the road to the Maracana final. Yet again, he was the tournament's outstanding player.

But if the sheer brilliance of one of the world's greatest-ever players has, in the past, so often dazzled, confused

Winner...Di Maria lobs Brazil keeper Ederson

At last...Messi finally lifts his first silverware at international level

and left the rest of Argentina's players reliant on Messi's magic to drag them through tournaments, at this Copa, something changed.

Part of that answer can be found in Messi's maturity, his greater involvement in team affairs. No longer aloof and content to relinquish control of the team to other leaders, his role this Copa was far more hands-on. In Argentina's gripping semi-final penalty shootout against Colombia, it was Messi firing the taunts. "Come on, dance now, dance now," he jeered at Yerry Mina, Everton's giant centre-back who had celebrated scoring his penalty against Uruguay in the previous round with a jig, but who had just fired an effort from the spot at goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. This was the South American spirit, this was what Argentinians wanted to feel.

Yet, while accolades will now rightly pour in for Messi and his personal struggle to restore sporting pride on his economically battered country, there are other heroes in this tale.

In the final, Scaloni made a bold call to drop industrious left-winger Nico Gonzalez from the starting XI, instead throwing Di Maria in for only his second start all tournament. It was daring yet dangerous, but it worked. After a tempestuous opening 20 minutes between two teams slogging it out in the centre of the pitch, with 12 fouls and no clear openings, it was Di Maria who broke the deadlock.

A sumptuous Rodrigo De Paul pass from deep sliced through the Brazilian defence, with Di Maria ghosting behind left-back Renan Lodi and lofting the ball over outrushing keeper Ederson. Lodi should undoubtedly have cut out the pass, but after having suffocated and disrupted Brazil's flow, Scaloni had prised a way through by capitalising on one of their opponent's main weaknesses: the aching space left between aging defender Thiago Silva and their attack-minded full-back Lodi.

That Messi wasn't for once involved in an Argentine goal also underlined the new solidity of the team. Much more ingrained in the side's fabric, Messi's spontaneous genius was no longer required to spark Argentina to success.

By half-time, Scaloni had prevented his creaking defence from having to suffer the menace of Neymar, the other star of this Copa, and the other protagonist of this final, by shutting down Brazil's circuits of play. Neymar was unable to combine with Lucas Paqueta like he had done throughout most of this tournament. Had Scaloni perhaps studied how Brazil had briefly suffered at the hands of Peru and Colombia earlier in the Copa?

In the second half, it was the turn of another hero. Emi Martinez, the domineering Aston Villa goalkeeper who had only dislodged Franco Armani at the start of June and who had saved three penalties in the semi-final win over Colombia, denied Richarlison with an excellent near-post save early on.

Switching to a more attacking 4-1-4-1 formation with the introduction of Roberto Firmino for carded Fred, Brazil manager Tite had gone for the kill. Neymar finally began to find more space. The rickety Argentine defence began to wobble.

Tears...Neymar is consoled by his team-mates after Brazil's defeat

But Argentina continued to scrap, upsetting Brazil's play with tactical fouls to unsettle the game's rhythm. As Brazil threw on more fresh legs, first in the form of pacy Vinicius Jr. down the left and then goal-getter Gabriel Barbosa, tensions often boiled over. Yet Argentina's collective spirit and commitment rode through, each player fighting for the cause. Right-back Gonzalo Montiel finished the game with his white socks stained in blood, while wily centre-back Nicolas Otamendi threw his body onto the line to deny sub Barbosa with a last-ditch challenge, before steamrollering Neymar into the ground minutes later.

Pile on...Messi is swamped by his team-mates

What a huge shame that only 2,200 Argentina supporters were able to witness their team's historic moment

With four minutes left, a free-kick fired into the box again fell to Barbosa, but once more Martinez pulled off a spectacular save. Despite dominating possession and pushing Argentina deep, Brazil had only fashioned two shots on target the whole game.

Messi was even spared the blushes of a last-minute miss after a perfectly threaded pass by Man of the Match De Paul saw Ederson gobble up the loose ball from his feet. Former team-mate Gonzalo Higuain, the villain of so many spurned chances in Argentine finals over the years, would have yearned for such fortune. This time though, there would be no regrets. Messi's moment had finally come.

Yet what a huge shame that only 2,200 Argentina supporters were able to witness their team's historic moment, a first Copa America trophy since 1993. But in this most peculiar and vacuous of tournaments, that any fans got through the turnstiles at all was a bonus. Played behind closed doors until the final, this was a far cry from the carnival of football enjoyed across the Atlantic at the European Championship.

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

GOALKEEPER

Emiliano MARTINEZ
(Argentina)
At long last, Argentina have a keeper. Such a reassuring and commanding presence, it is astonishing to believe *La Albiceleste* have taken until this Copa America to finally settle on the 28-year-old Aston Villa rock as their number one. Kept three successive clean sheets before his controversial penalty antics v Colombia heroically steered Argentina into the final. Maradona would have been proud.

DEFENDERS

Nahitan NANDEZ
(Uruguay)
Rumoured to be on Marcelo Bielsa's shopping list at Leeds United, the Cagliari midfielder was mainly used at right-back this tournament where he thrived as a constant menace driving to the by-line. Not afraid to take on his man and dart into the box, he was Uruguay's standout player this Copa.

MARQUINHOS
(Brazil)
Once more showed why he is comfortably South America's best defender. Makes everything seem so simple with impeccable timing and neat execution in the tackle. An integral part of the impregnable defence moulded by Tite, the Paris Saint-Germain man's influence, understanding and ice-cool steel radiate through the team.

Piero HINCAPIE
(Ecuador)
Raw but with bundles of promise, the 19-year-old ended the tournament on a low after capitulating in the last ten minutes of Ecuador's quarter-final against Argentina, with two errors that both led to goals and his sending off. But overall it was still an impressive tournament for the former Ecuador U17s captain.

Eugenio MENA
(Chile)
There were no standout candidates at left-back this tournament, but for consistency the experienced Chilean gets the nod above Pervis Estupinan (Ecuador) and Renan Lodi (Brazil). Stopped many in their tracks down Chile's left, while keeping things simple and using his tremendous tank of energy to support attacks. Silently very, very efficient.

Party time...Argentina's victorious players dive towards the trophy

MIDFIELD

Wilmar BARRIOS
(Colombia)
Inexplicably left on the bench in new boss Reinaldo Rueda's first two competitive games in charge. Barrios was a ferocious force in mopping up in front of defence, his tenacity and effortless ball recuperation once more underlined his place among the world's best for his position.

CASEMIRO
(Brazil)
A defensive wall and key cog in how Brazil build from the base of midfield. Adored by Tite for his intelligence, leadership and tactical discipline, it's hard to find a hole in his game. When Neymar and Paqueta combined to dazzling effect, it was due to Casemiro giving them the license to do so.

Yoshimar YOTUN
(Peru)
Starring in his fifth Copa, this was arguably Yoshi's finest. Bossed midfields alongside Renato Tapia with his vision, passing range and presence across the pitch a big reason for Peru's run to the semis. Just edges out the equally exceptional Rodrigo De Paul.

FORWARDS

Lionel MESSI
(Argentina)
Still sees things that others don't, still crafts openings that others can't. Yet again in imperious splendour this Copa, the 34-year-old was, predictably, the kernel behind almost every Argentina attack. An absolute phenomenon.

NEYMAR
(Brazil)
At times a YouTube highlights reel, Neymar might not yet have quite reached Ballon d'Or levels, but he exuded the confidence and skills to show he's not far off. Not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get stuck in, like during ten-man Brazil's second-half v Chile, the PSG man's individual brilliance was the spark that ignited the *Selecao* engine.

Luis DIAZ
(Colombia)
Former Argentine World Cup winner Oscar Ruggeri described Diaz's semi-final display against his country as "unstoppable" with the winger jinking and torturing Argentina's back-line. Scorer of some of the goals of the tournament, including a scissor-kick v Brazil and a stoppage-time thunderbolt in the third-place play-off against Peru.

Switched to Brazil after both Colombia and Argentina had been forced to pull out as co-hosts at the very last minute, this was the worst organised tournament in the Copa's 105-year history. In a country still devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and with deaths climbing to over half a million during the course of the competition, Brazil's National Council of Health Secretaries had slammed the tournament as a "big mistake."

In the background protests against far-right president Jair Bolsonaro's government raged.

With Venezuela rushing in an almost entire new squad after over a dozen of their first-teamers tested positive for COVID before their first match, games were played on pitches that resembled cabbage patches as part of a ridiculous tournament format that took 20 games to eliminate just two countries.

Only in the knockout stages did the tournament spring into any semblance of life, but devoid of any stadium atmosphere, supporters struggled to engage. In the end, a dream final saved CONMEBOL's skin and granted Messi and Argentina a long-awaited and deserved trophy. Nevertheless, the 2021 Copa America will still go down as an irresponsible tournament that should have probably never even happened.

TEAM BY TEAM

ARGENTINA

Copa America champions for the first time since 1993 and a much-craved first international triumph for inspirational captain and talisman Lionel Messi. Huge credit must go to ex-West Ham loanee Lionel Scaloni, who stumbled into the manager's job three years ago, but quickly injected new life into a fading side despite steady media criticism. He built carefully throughout this tournament, crafting a side that finally gets the best out of star man Messi. Made all the right calls in the final to outfox Brazil against considerable odds.

BOLIVIA

Crashed out of the tournament with four straight defeats in Group A, scoring just two goals and conceding ten, to confirm their place as South America's punching bag. They sorely missed the influence of injured midfielder Alejandro Chumacero and, having also lost their all-time top goalscorer Marcelo Martins for most of the tournament, Venezuela coach Cesar Farias had to make do with a mainly domestic-based squad. But Bolivia's lack of quality and guile yet again failed to ruffle any feathers, despite heroic efforts from keeper Carlos Lampe.

BRAZIL

Began the tournament as runaway favourites, but *Selecao* gradually lost their way to become the first Brazil side in history not to win the Copa America while hosts. Heartbreaking defeat to arch-rivals Argentina in the final also denied Neymar a first title, after missing 2019's win with an ankle injury. Head coach Tite had hoped to use the Copa to bridge the gap between his side and top European countries with World Cup qualification already looking secure. But the 2021 tournament has instead only raised more questions than answers.

CHILE

A spurned opportunity for Chile, who played almost an entire half of their quarter-final with a man advantage over Brazil, but rarely made the hosts sweat. *La Roja*'s XI in that 1-0 defeat averaged 80 appearances apiece and featured seven of the starters that won the 2015 Copa (Claudio Bravo, Mauricio Isla, Gary Medel, Charles Aranguiz, Arturo Vidal, Alexis Sanchez and Eduardo Vargas), yet again underlining the urgency of a generational transition. That striker Ben Brereton, a player plucked from the English Championship, waltzed straight into the side (and impressed), demonstrates the daunting task that lies ahead for new coach Martin Lasarte.

COLOMBIA

Won just two out of their seven games (excluding the quarter-final penalty shootout victory over Uruguay), but were a whisker away from making the final after pushing Argentina all the way to penalties in the semis. New coach Reinaldo Rueda used the groups to tinker with his team after controversially dropping troubled star James Rodriguez and reverting to a 4-4-2 without an orthodox Valderrama-style playmaker. Yet, despite scoring just seven goals, this was still a positive Copa that puts Colombia back on track after a worrisome last couple of years.

Whipping boys...Bolivia lost all of their matches

RIGHT: Third-placed side... Colombia celebrate a group-stage goal

Shot-stopper... Venezuela goalkeeper Wuilker Farinez

Dejected...Ecuador following their quarter-final defeat to Argentina

Turning point... Paraguay captain Gustavo Gomez is dismissed

Surprise packages... Peru players celebrate

Breakout star...Chile's new striker Ben Brereton

Ageing...Uruguay front two Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez

ECUADOR

A hugely disappointing tournament for Gustavo Alfaro's charges who squeaked out of Group B without winning a game (three draws and one defeat) before being thrashed 3-0 by Argentina in the quarter-finals. That scoreline was perhaps a tad harsh with Ecuador missing big chances before finally being shot down by two late moments of Messi brilliance. But *La Tricolor*'s incredible 18-match winless Copa America run against fellow South American nations, a miserable record that stretches back to 2001, still remains. That hapless streak includes only two wins in 24 games, both coming against non-CONMEBOL guest nations Mexico and Haiti. Tough times ahead, although they have fared much better so far in 2022 World Cup qualifying.

PARAGUAY

Up-and-down campaign for Paraguay who looked really impressive when they flickered into life, particularly in the 2-0 group-stage win against Chile, but also struggled to maintain their rhythm. Had captain Gustavo Gomez harshly sent off in the first half of their quarter-final against Peru, but then grit their teeth in characteristic Guarani manner by twice coming from behind to force penalties. Having settled on a 4-4-2 formation, coach Eduardo Berrizo will now hope to take some of that dogged never-say-die attitude into the qualifiers where they sit mid-table with four draws in six games.

PERU

The big surprise of this tournament, Peru's spirited semi-final exit to Brazil offers hope that better times lie ahead for the country currently rooted to the bottom of World Cup qualification. Yoshimar Yotun and Renato Tapia formed a formidable midfield partnership, while Italian-born striker Gianluca Lapadula provided great movement and goals in injured talisman Paolo Guerrero's absence. If only Peru had ditched their fear of Brazil earlier, they may have made an even bigger splash this Copa. Plenty to build on.

URUGUAY

Far from a disastrous Copa campaign, Uruguay nonetheless stuttered through this tournament before being eliminated on penalties by Colombia in the quarters in an open and combative match that could have swung either way. However, many of the doubts that have so far plagued Uruguay's World Cup qualifying campaign remain, particularly on how wily coach Oscar Tabarez can best weld a team to still get a tune out of the creaking Suarez-Cavani attacking dyad.

VENEZUELA

Blitzed by COVID on the eve of the tournament, Portuguese manager Jose Peseiro had to rush in 15 players, several uncapped, for Venezuela's Group B opener against hosts and pre-tournament favourites Brazil. They nevertheless showed plenty of pluck in battling bravely to the end, with Lens goalkeeper Wuilker Farinez's sensational performance in shutting out Colombia the best individual effort of the group stage. But a brave 1-0 defeat against Peru in their final match in Brasilia saw *La Vinotinto* edged out in the first round.

Tokyo Games gets green light

But drama of Rio 2016 is unlikely to repeated

In the end, God was still Brazilian. After 120 minutes of compelling and combustive box-to-box football, the hosts' lodestar Neymar delivered salvation from the penalty spot for Brazil to clinch their maiden gold medal at the 2016 Olympic football tournament in the final against Germany. The final itself was not a pent-up grudge match for that unforgiving afternoon in Belo Horizonte two years earlier, but even so victory served as a redemptive triumph for the South Americans. At the final whistle, the Maracana, the cathedral of Brazilian football, exploded in an apocalyptic bedlam.

Holders...Brazil won gold on home soil in 2016

Those scenes of delirium won't be repeated in Tokyo. Having been drawn alongside Germany, Saudi Arabia and Ivory Coast in Group D, the Brazilians could well reach the final again, but football does not enjoy the same cultural significance in Japan, even if it's imperative for the host nation to offer a respectable showing. Above all, because of the global health crisis there will be few fans in the stands, or none at all, to encourage and cheer on whichever teams progress to the gold medal match.

At the time of writing, the million-dollar question was still rumbling on: would the Tokyo Olympic Games take place? Japan was struggling to contain the coronavirus and labouring under stringent health and sanitary measures to curb the pandemic, but organisers boldly declared they had entered "operational delivery mode". The Japanese government and IOC always took the attitude that the show had to go on, no matter what – a new wave of infections, rising coronavirus numbers in Japan or a state of emergence in the host city.

Outside the bubble of Olympic decision makers, scepticism remained high. Polls consistently demonstrated that a vast majority of the Japanese population was against the Olympic Games, even if it meant postponing the global extravaganza for a second time. Public health specialists suggested the Games' safety plans put athletes and others at risk, and leading newspaper, the *Asahi Shimbun*, an Olympic partner, called for cancellation.

Even so, it's highly likely that Egypt and Spain will kick off the Olympic football tournament on July 22 at the Dome in Sapporo. As is tradition, the

Final hosts...the Nissan Stadium in Yokohama

Group guide

A In 2016, Japan failed to get out of their group, a nightmare scenario that they'll be desperate to avoid at home. The hosts' curtain raiser against South Africa will be key in a tricky group that also features Mexico and France. Third at the 2019 Under-23 Africa Cup of Nations, the South Africans competed in 2000 and 2016, but failed both times to get out of their group. The French were semi-finalists at the U21 Euros in 2019, while Mexico won the qualifying tournament in their region. In 2012, the Mexicans famously claimed gold at Wembley when two Oribe Peralta goals defeated Brazil.

B New Zealand, South Korea, Honduras and Romania feature in the most open and evenly balanced group of the first round. There are no big names or powerhouses, but the Asian champions will be confident of going through with several of the players that reached the Under-20 World Cup final in 2019. The Kiwis reached the last 16 of that same tournament, and will take the nucleus of that team to Japan, five years after an ineligibility scandal ended their involvement in Rio. Honduras once again eliminated the United States in qualification and will look to better their fourth-place finish from Rio 2016. Romania complete the group, having eliminated both England and Croatia in the qualifiers.

competition will be staged nationwide, at seven venues in six cities, with action stretching from Yokohama, Saitama, Tokyo and Kashima in a central cluster to both Sendai and Sapporo in the north. Five of the seven grounds hosted matches during the first-ever World Cup finals in the Far East in 2002.

Sixteen participants will compete for gold to the backdrop of a suffocating 17-day obsession with badminton, archery, judo and a swat of other understated sports. Once again, the football tournament will become a sideshow, almost a nuisance in the Olympic cosmos. The importance and *raison d'être* of the competition have long been questioned. Ever since the introduction of the World Cup and, later, other continental tournaments, the competition lost its relevance. As a consequence, the quality has suffered, with teams that have not grown in an organic manner and the random presence of three over-age players.

FIFA rules no longer require clubs to release players for the tournament, but hosts Japan will count on Sampdoria's Maya Yoshida, Stuttgart's Wataru Endo and ex-Marseille full-back Hiroki Sakai to inject their team with experience. The Japanese participated in the 2019 Copa America with their Under-23 team to prepare and mustered two draws with both Uruguay and Ecuador after a 4-0 defeat against Chile. Real Madrid young gun Takefusa Kubo and Antwerp's Koji Miyoshi are among the players from that squad who should feature in Tokyo after FIFA raised the age limit to Under-24 following the postponement of the Olympic Games last year. Under the motto "One Team, Two Ages", head coach Hajime Moriyasu is doubling up to coach the Olympic team as well, but at times he struggled to complete the puzzle because of limited player availability during the pandemic.

In March, Japan defeated Argentina at U24 level, a result and performance that lend some credence to the hosts' ambitious aim for gold. Japan won't face the pressure Brazil did five years ago when the Olympic medal was the only one missing from the hosts' trophy cabinet, but Asia has never won the men's tournament since the first iteration at the Olympic Games of Paris in 1900.

At the time of writing, the million-dollar question was still rumbling on: would the Tokyo Olympic Games take place?

3 TO WATCH

GABRIEL MENINO
(Brazil)
Both a right-back and midfielder, his versatility and skills are an asset to any team. Very highly rated by senior Brazil coach Tite. A future Dani Alves?

LEE KANG-IN
(South Korea)
An attacking midfielder and smart mover on and off the ball. Great technique. Starred as player of the tournament at the Under-20 World Cup in 2019.

RAMADAN SOBHI
(Egypt)
Spells at both Stoke City and Huddersfield Town. A skilful and strong attacking midfielder or winger. Huge potential.

Preparation...hosts Japan competed at the 2019 Copa America with their Under-23 team

In fact, Japan and South Korea have been the only teams from the continent to reach the podium, winning the bronze medal in 1968 and 2012 respectively. In Group B, the Koreans will have to navigate past Romania, Honduras and New Zealand, who for the first time will field a fully professional team.

Perhaps the winner will come from the subsequent groups. Argentina won the tournament consecutively in 2004 and 2008, and impressed at the U20 South American Championship in 2019. Brazil are the defending champions, but will the team of coach Andre Jardine take the competition with all the gravitas of previous iterations when Brazil longed for Olympic gold?

The Olympic team represents a halfway house to the *Selecao*, and Lyon midfielder Bruno Guimaraes, Arsenal wonderkid Gabriel Martinelli and electric Ajax forward Antony are among the names who will hope this tournament helps them make the step up. In 2016, Brazil turned to Neymar, Renato Augusto and goalkeeper Weverton as over-age players. This time they've opted for the veteran Dani Alves, Sevilla centre-back Diego Carlos and Athletico Paranaense keeper Santos, with many clubs unwilling to release their key players due to a congested calendar and critical fixtures in the Copa Libertadores in August.

The Brazilians will open their campaign against Germany in a repeat of the 2016 final. Europe has traditionally neglected the Olympic tournament, highlighting the relative insignificance of the competition. In the past two decades, the continent has come to dominate the World Cup but, before 2016, Spain were the last Europeans to reach the Olympic final, in 2000. Since then Cameroon, Nigeria, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil have all clinched gold. Can Germany and Spain, the last two U21 European champions, turn the tide and demonstrate that football's relationship with the Olympics shouldn't be so fraught after all?

Samindra Kunti

C In a group with three continental champions, there are few guarantees, but Argentina and Spain will be slight favourites to go through – even if *La Roja* haven't progressed to the knockout phase since 2000. Argentina have Olympic pedigree and Brighton & Hove Albion's Alexis Mac Allister starred in qualification in a No.10 role, scoring four goals. Australia, Asia's third representative in Tokyo, qualified with more completed passes than anyone else on the continent and senior coach Graham Arnold will look to harness that possession-based style. Egypt won the 2019 U23 AFCON with a generation considered one of their most promising ever. Amar Hamdy and Ramadan Sobhi will be players to watch.

D Curtain raisers don't come any bigger than Brazil v Germany, uniting two heavyweights and the finalists of the last Olympics. Brazil lost just three times in preparation before slumping to an embarrassing defeat against Cape Verde in June, raising questions over the pedigree of some of their home-based players. Having never won gold, Germany will be keen to avenge defeat five years ago. Saudi Arabia return to the competition for a third time and impressed at continental level, finishing runners-up behind South Korea. Ambitious coach Saad Al-Shehri leads the Green Falcons and believes that progress is realistic. Ivory Coast participate for a second time after reaching the last eight in Beijing in 2008.

United States the team to beat

The world champions are eyeing a first-ever World Cup/gold medal double

United States expect to end a World Cup winners' hoodoo in the delayed Tokyo Olympics. Since women's football was added to the Games programme in 1996, the gold medal has never been won by reigning world champions. This is surprising given the women's tournament is a fully-fledged international competition, unlike the men's which is primarily an Under-23s event. Oddly, the US have won four of the six Olympic competitions, but lost on the two occasions they have arrived as World Cup holders: Sydney 2000 and Rio 2016.

Few would bet on a third failure to double up. Despite the 12-month postponement, 13 of the 14 players who featured in the 2019 World Cup final victory were included in the Olympic squad – even Carli Lloyd, who turns 39 five days before the tournament starts. Moreover, unlike many of their rivals the US have maintained a strong schedule. The American team operates much like a club side in normal circumstances and despite the pandemic, as a leading official from competitor noted archly, "continue to behave as if everything is normal".

From January this year the US played a dozen fixtures prior to heading for Japan. Of the other contenders, Canada and the Netherlands managed seven, Sweden six, Brazil and Japan five, Australia four and China just two. Great Britain failed to manage even one, having to make do with three friendlies played by an England team that provides the bulk of the GB squad.

Any result other than a US win would be a major surprise

It is not just that the US play more games, they also win them. When Sweden held them to a 1-1 draw in Stockholm in April, it ended a run of 16 straight wins featuring 14 clean sheets. The change in management from Jill Ellis to Vlatko Andonovski, the former Kansas City and Reign FC coach, which followed the World Cup triumph, appears to have been seamless. If anything the team is better now than in 2019.

Who can stop them? Not the holders, Germany, who failed to qualify having not been one of the three best European performers at the World Cup. Nor France, the last team to beat the US, in 2019, who also failed to qualify. Canada would love to knock out their neighbours, with memories still burning of their controversial 2012 semi-final defeat to the Americans. If both sides win their groups, they will meet in the last four again. But while Canada are a well-organised, experienced side with some talented youngsters, they have only beaten their southern border rivals three times – the last of which came in a friendly in 2006.

The Canadians are led by Englishwoman Bev Priestman, previously assistant manager to England. The 35-year-old won the role ahead of Rhian Wilkinson, a 2012 bronze

Group guide

E Three evenly matched teams and a rank outsider, but debutants Chile will be treated with respect. They are unlikely to win a match, but new Lyon goalkeeper Christiane Endler is quite capable of turning in a performance to earn a goalless draw and imperil the progress of frustrated opponents. Canada, bronze medallists at 2012 and 2016, are efficient and consistent with a tight defence but don't score many. Hosts Japan hit 27 goals in four warm-up matches but haven't really been tested for 15 months. The England team on which Great Britain are based usually put away weak sides but struggle against elite ones. Due to the draw, coming second might be better than winning the group.

Team GB...Hege Riise's squad is dominated by English players

Favourites...USA won the World Cup two years ago

medallist with Canada and assistant coach prior to Priestman's appointment. Wilkinson subsequently crossed the Atlantic to buff her CV as assistant to England interim coach Hege Riise – and now finds herself working with Riise for Team GB.

Riise, who won gold in 2000 with Norway, selected 15 Englishwomen, plus Scotland's Caroline Weir and Kim Little, and Sophie Ingle of Wales. More than half her 18 are Manchester City players.

Great Britain open the tournament against Chile in the Sapporo Dome with expectations of an easy win tempered by the South Americans' impressive goalless draw with an admittedly experimental Germany prior to the Games. Japan, who unsurprisingly have been building to this tournament for several years, make up the group and given home advantage could easily top it, even if crowds are likely to be limited.

Chile are one of three debutants with Zambia and the Netherlands. Zambia unexpectedly topped African qualifying but have barely played since and are ranked 104th in the world. Zaragoza's Racheal Nachula has Olympic experience – but as a 400m runner in the 2008 Games.

The Dutch are genuine contenders. World Cup runners-up and European champions, they have been in good form and have, in Lieke Martens, the only player at the tournament from Barcelona's Champions League success. It will be intriguing if they meet GB as Sarina Wiegman, the architect of their recent success, takes over as England coach after the Games – Englishman Mark Parsons, currently at NWSL's Portland Thorns, will replace her.

Also moving on after Tokyo is New Zealand's Tom Sermanni. The Scot previously coached group opponents USA and Australia and will need all his experience given the Kiwis go into the competition having not played for more than 500 days. They did manage a training camp in Auckland, but only after overseas-based players spent a fortnight in hotel quarantine.

3 TO WATCH

DEBINHA
(Brazil)
Has more than a century of caps but is only now emerging from the shadows of Marta and Formiga. Very influential in the success of North Carolina Courage.

LAUREN HEMP
(Great Britain)
Turns 21 the day after the Olympics final but already a key player for Manchester City and England. A quick, skilful winger.

YUKA MOMIKI
(Japan)
Born and based in the US, with OL Reign, but brought up in Japan. Right-sided, left-footed attacking midfielder with good close control.

Australia's preparations have also been badly disrupted by COVID. The Matildas have not won a match since their final qualifier in Vietnam 15 months ago and shipped five against both Germany and the Netherlands in warm-ups. Their government's strict quarantine policies mean most players have not been home for more than a year and all their build-up has been overseas. Head coach Tony Gustavsson should know their opponents, being Swedish and part of the US coaching staff from 2014 to 2019, but having only been in charge since September he has his work cut out in his first post as a national head coach.

He is one of three Swedish coaches with Peter Gerhardsson leading their always-competitive homeland and Pia Sundhage coaching Brazil. Her three previous Games as coach produced two gold medals (USA, 2008 and 2012) and one silver (Sweden, 2016). The extraordinary Formiga, who played in the first women's Olympic football tournament in Atlanta, is in line to appear at her seventh Games. Now 43, she is unlikely to improve on the silver medals Brazil gained in Athens and Beijing, but the 12-team format can

Champions League winner... Lieke Martens

produce surprises. Sundhage's Sweden reached the final in Rio despite only winning their opening match against South Africa. Qualifying from third in the group, they won knockout ties on penalties before succumbing 2-1 to Germany in the final.

In truth any result other than a US win would be a major surprise. High temperatures and humidity could affect a team with an average age above 30, but American players are very fit and used to playing in heat. There is, though, also the spectre of COVID. Most players will be vaccinated but could still be sent into isolation if they come into contact with a confirmed infection. If that happens to half a squad, all bets are off.

Glenn Moore

F An indication of the strides made by the Netherlands is that in spite of winning of Euro 2017 and reaching the 2019 World Cup final, this is their Olympic bow. By contrast Brazil are ever-presents, reaching five semi-finals and winning two silver medals. That pair should progress to the last eight along with China, finalists in the first tournament in 1996, but yet to make the final four since. Making up the group are Zambia, for whom Grace Chanda scored eight goals in qualifying. With Shanghai-based captain Barbra Banda she will be their main attacking threat, but opportunities are likely to be rare. Topping this section is a prize worth winning as it will mean, barring a shock in Group G, avoiding the United States until the final.

G By some distance the strongest group at the tournament with two top-five nations and none outside the world's leading 22-ranked teams. Red-hot favourites United States can be expected to progress to the latter stages, with Sweden – who knocked them out at Rio 2016 en route to the silver medal – expected to join the Stars and Stripes. That leaves the World Cup 2023 joint-hosts Australia and New Zealand scrapping it out to take third place and a potential quarter-final spot. The Matildas are definitely the stronger of the Trans-Tasman rivals, but have dipped in form since the last World Cup and will need Chelsea striker Sam Kerr to be on her game to make further progress.

eye witness

Ryan Baldi reports

ENGLAND

Mr 22

"I just want to apologise," began a 14-year-old Jude Bellingham. "I shouldn't have missed that penalty."

The year is 2017, and Birmingham City's Under-15s have just been beaten at the semi-final stage of a summer tournament in Barcelona, with coach Mike Dodds inviting the players to share any reflections they had of the trip and of their performances on the field.

Bellingham, the team's star player, wasn't in the mood to dole out platitudes or pats on the back for having reached the last four. He'd missed a penalty in the final minutes of the game – and it was all he could think about.

"Top players don't miss penalties at big moments in the game," he said. "If I want to be a top player, I've got to be better than that."

Less than four years on, Bellingham is unquestionably a top player. With 90 senior club appearances under his belt before his 18th birthday – nearly 50 of which since a £25 million move to ▸

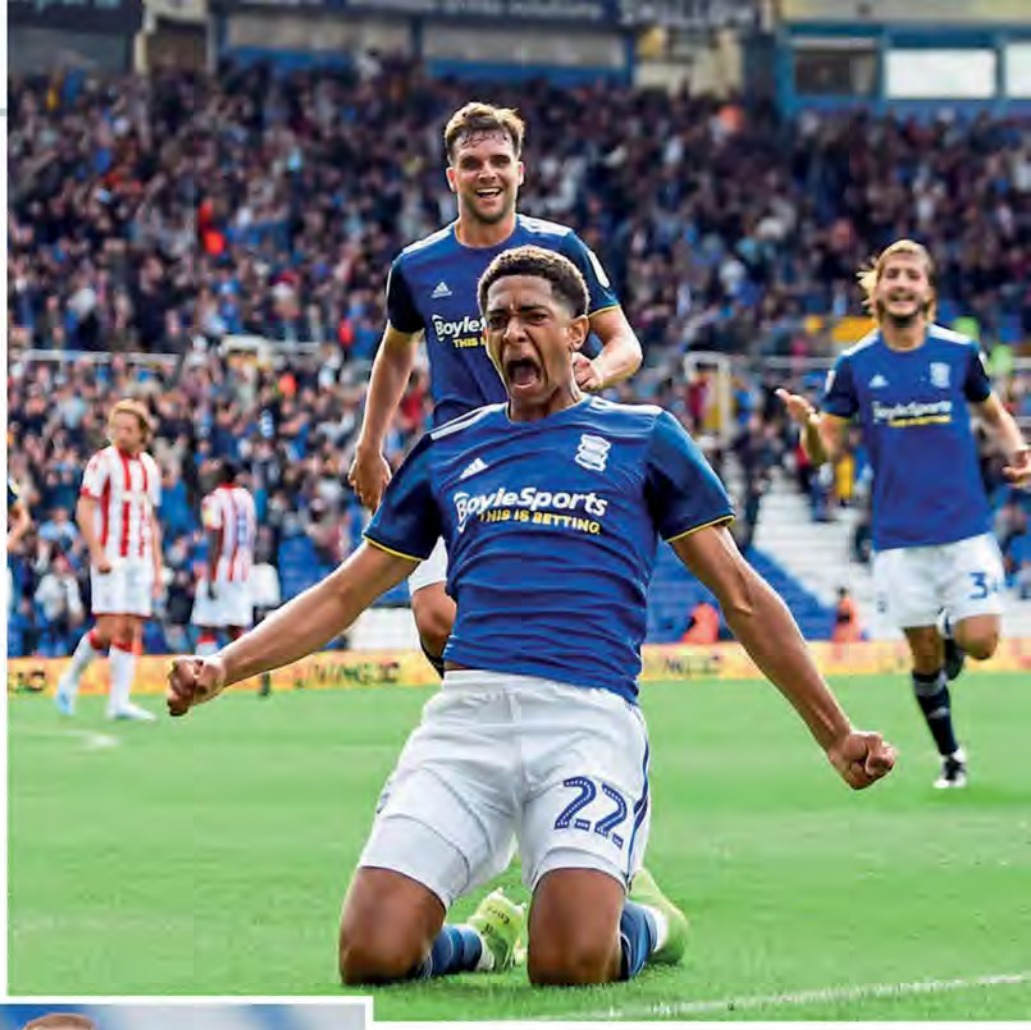
Youngest Lion... Bellingham's Euro 2020 portrait

Borussia Dortmund last year – he is one of football's most accomplished young players. When he came off the bench in England's Euro 2020 opener against Croatia in June, he became the youngest player in the history of the European Championship (albeit that record was broken again just days later by Poland's Kacper Kozlowski).

Bellingham's rise to the summit of the continental game has been frighteningly rapid, an ascent fuelled by self-imposed standards so high as to make a penalty miss in a youth tournament unforgivable, and a football obsession that was sparked in the humble surrounds of the Midlands non-league circuit.

"He was totally different to Jude," Gary Hackett says of Bellingham's father, Mark, a sergeant in the West Midlands Police who moonlighted for 20 years as one of the region's deadliest semi-professional strikers. "He was an out-and-out goalscorer. He was phenomenal. Mark could have played at a much higher level, but because of his job in the police force, he couldn't mix the football with work."

Bellingham has spoken of how seeing his father play influenced his own desire to be a footballer. Hackett, a former



Born-and-bred Blue...Bellingham celebrates becoming Birmingham's youngest-ever goalscorer

Idol...Bellingham came up against Rooney in 2020

Shrewsbury Town, Stoke City and West Bromwich Albion winger, was manager of Stourbridge FC the year Mark Bellingham scored 62 goals in one season. He was also a neighbour of the Bellinghams in Hagley, Worcestershire, and remembers Jude and his younger brother, Jobe, tagging along when their dad would hold coaching sessions at the local park.

"If you ever saw Mark down Hagley Park, doing his coaching, his kids would always follow him around," Hackett recalls. "They were always playing football, always athletic. You could just sense they were both natural footballers. You always knew that something was going to be really special with Jude. In the area around Hagley and Stourbridge, we're all very proud of what he is achieving."

Spotted playing for his local grassroots team, Bellingham joined Birmingham City's pre-academy programme as an Under-seven. At first, he didn't stand out as a prospect of particular note.

"I was there at his first session with the football club," remembers Mike Dodds, who ran Birmingham's pre-academy at the time and went on to coach Bellingham at every level. "He loved the game, bounced around like Tigger. But I wouldn't say he was any better than the other boys. If you'd have said to me back then that this boy would go on to do what he's done, I'd have said you need your head testing."

Bellingham's thirst for improvement and competition was evident from the outset, however. He would regularly be seen out on the pitch long after a session had concluded, practising passing and shooting with his dad and Jobe, who later also joined Birmingham's academy. He would seek out the club's coaches for contests to see who could volley the ball against a wall the most times without it touching the floor – invariably he'd win.

Around the age of 11, practice was beginning to make perfect. Bellingham's development accelerated, taking him clear of his peers.

Mark Muddyman, then a Foundation Phase coach at the club, remembers one game against Bristol City on the academy's dome-covered 3G pitch in which Bellingham scored nine goals. "He was doing reverse Cruyff turns, nicking it off players and just dancing past three players and scoring at will," Muddyman says. "That was one of the days we were like, 'Wow, this boy is special!'"

"The buzz started to grow as he was coming through to the Under-tens and

Record-breaker... becoming the Euros' youngest-ever player v Croatia

Under-11s," adds Karl Hooper, another of Bellingham's youth coaches. "That's when the club started to really notice an emerging talent, in terms of his performances in his age group and age groups above.

"I think he relished the pressure of knowing he was good, knowing people wanted to overtake and beat him, and relishing the challenge of trying to be at the top and stay at the top."

And as his talent flourished, his leadership and sense of personal responsibility grew. In one Under-11s game against Everton, Birmingham found themselves 6-1 down at half-time. Evidently frustrated during the break, Bellingham stirred himself and his team-mates. They rallied to claim a 6-6 draw – Bellingham scored five goals and assisted the other.

The previous summer, Bellingham had been playing for Birmingham's Under-tens when he was called over to play the final 15 minutes of an Under-11s fixture against local rivals Aston Villa. Birmingham were 3-1 down when he entered the field. A Bellingham hat-trick snatched a 4-3 victory.

His early youth career was spent as a striker, emulating his dad's scoring feats. But Birmingham's coaches believed he could offer more from a deeper position. In one conversation with a 12-year-old Bellingham, Dodds asked the pre-teen what role he envisaged for himself.

"I want to be a No.10," Bellingham replied.

"I think you should be a No.22," Dodds countered, flummoxing the youngster.

The coach's idea was that Bellingham should not only transition into a midfield role, but one that would incorporate aspects of the remits of a defensive midfielder (traditionally a No.4 in England), a box-to-box runner (No.8) and a creator in the attacking third (No.10) – hence a No.22.

> "If you'd have said to me back then that this boy would go on to do what he's done, I'd have said you need your head testing"
>
> **Mike Dodds, Birmingham City head of academy**

Under-21s...the midfielder is also the youngest player to feature for the Young Lions

"He idolised the likes of Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney," Dodds says. "One of my favourite players was Paul Gascoigne. Gazza could do everything. He could control the ball from deeper areas. He could score. He could create in higher areas. I used to talk to him a lot about Paul Gascoigne. Those three players were the players who we talked about when we reviewed his programme.

"We always reviewed around, 'Were you a 22 today? Did you defend? Did you run around? Were you a box-to-box eight? Were you a ten?' He held on to that, hence the reason why now he wears the No.22 shirt."

As the hype around Bellingham began to grow within youth-football circles, he was selected for the England Under-15s while only 13 years old. On international duty, he'd be surrounded by players from the country's biggest clubs and traditional youth-development powerhouses – Manchester City, Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool. Feeling something of an outsider representing Birmingham City, he felt he had to prove his worthiness to be among the Young Lions. By the Under-16s level, he was team captain, scoring four goals in seven appearances.

Back at Birmingham, the list of scouts attending his Under-15s fixtures swelled to include talent-spotters from some of Europe's biggest clubs.

In 2017, still only 15 years old, Bellingham and Birmingham's Under-17s travelled to Rotterdam to take on their Feyenoord counterparts. The Dutch side contained a number of players who'd won the European Under-17 Championship earlier that

year. Bellingham, the youngest player on the pitch, made the game his own. At half-time, coaches Steve Spooner and Hooper retreated to the changing room at Feyenoord's academy, where they found the door knocking with constant enquiries from attendant scouts and coaches: "Who is that No.10?"

"He was absolutely outstanding against this group of players who'd won the Under-17 Euros in 2018," Hooper remembers. "He dominated."

The ease with which he was finding the game two age groups above his own convinced the Birmingham decision-makers to stretch Bellingham even further, moving him up into the Under-23s. The midfielder still stood out, even scoring on his debut against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground, where he was once again the youngest player on display, a 15-year-old among many team-mates and opponents beyond 20.

"He surprised me with his football brain and the feet that he had," says former Watford, West Brom and Birmingham defender Paul Robinson, who coached Bellingham in the club's Under-23s. "He could cope with any situation that came his way. He was a thinker. He's always thinking about how his game can evolve, what he needs to do better, how he can make his team-mates better.

"His attitude, wanting to be the best, that's what you saw in him. Some of his moves on the football pitch, players would fall to the floor because of his quick feet and his ability to change direction. He was breathtaking."

As a boyhood Birmingham City fan, Bellingham had a deep appreciation of the club's history. He wanted desperately to be a part of it. He is described as a "goal-oriented person", and he had long targeted Trevor Francis' record of being the youngest-ever player to play for the club's first team, at 16 years, 139 days.

"As it started to get closer, it became a real burning desire of his; close to an obsession of wanting to put his mark on the club he supported," Hooper says. "It was everything."

Having already trained sporadically with the first team and shone for the Under-23s, Bellingham was beginning to get itchy feet. He was part of the first team's pre-season tour of Portugal in the summer of 2019, just weeks after his 16th birthday. But he returned frustrated, feeling he hadn't been given enough playing time and that he was being unfairly held back because of his age. Pounding through the corridors of

DFB-Pokal winner... Bellingham holds the German Cup

Dortmund star...the German side have several exciting young players

the club's training ground one morning, he sought out Dodds.

"I thought he was going to beat me up!" the coach jokes. "He wanted to get some stuff off his chest. He felt the club weren't playing him because of his age. He wanted to be judged on his performances and his ability on the pitch, and he was getting frustrated around: 'They keep using this excuse that I'm just 16.'

"That goes back to his mentality that sets him apart. He went into the first-team environment and he wasn't happy sitting on the bench. He wanted to play. That was when I knew this boy has got a real chance, the fact that he went in with our first-team players and his mentality was, 'I shouldn't be on the bench; I should be starting.'

"I remember us having some really honest conversations, where I'd say: 'Jude, relax, you're just 16.' And he would say: 'No, I'm not accepting that. If I'm good enough, they should play me.' That's the point I knew this boy is different."

"My idea was to not use him much in those games," recalls his manager at the time, Pep Clotet. "But then we played him and I thought: 'Wow, he can play.' He was at the physical stage where he could start competing for a role. That feeling of him being ready grew through pre-season."

Sure enough, Bellingham wouldn't have to wait much longer. His opportunity – and his record – was right around the corner. With a senior debut in an EFL Cup game against Portsmouth on August 6, 2019, he became Birmingham's youngest-ever first-team player, at 16 years and 38 days. The early weeks of the 2019-20 season brought a first league appearance, and first league start, a home debut and a first senior goal – making him the club's youngest-ever scorer.

"I saw in his eyes that he was coming on with a lot of confidence," says Clotet of Bellingham's record-breaking goal. "He scored and he won the game for us. In the way he celebrated, I could see he had been waiting 16 years for this."

"The first-team players were singing his praises with how well he'd done," adds Robinson. "I think he coped with [Championship football] extremely well and was one of the outstanding players that season at the young age of 17.

"He was head and shoulders above some of the first-team players who'd had long careers – that's how good he was."

Bellingham finished his maiden senior campaign with 44 appearances and was named the EFL Young Player of the Year. The maturity and skill of his performances marked him out not only as arguably the Championship's best player at just 17 but also a transfer target for some of the world's biggest clubs. Manchester United were chief among his most ardent suitors, but Bellingham consulted with his family and chose what he believed would be the best route for his development.

The decision to move to a new country at such a tender age and in the middle of a pandemic was not taken lightly. But having assessed their stellar track record in developing young players – not least his current international colleague Jadon Sancho – a move to Dortmund made complete sense.

"He explained that Dortmund was his choice," say Dodds. "I think it kind of sums him up as a boy and his mentality. It was purely, 100 per cent around getting minutes. He said he felt Dortmund was the best club in terms of giving him that opportunity to keep playing. It was never a financial decision.

"Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding. The other day was his 88th professional game. When you look at those stats, you can't argue with his choices."

Once Bellingham's departure for Signal Iduna Park was confirmed, Birmingham announced they'd be retiring his shirt number. The decision was roundly mocked, given the youngster had played only one season in the St. Andrew's first team, but few realised the importance of the number 22 in the development of one of the club's brightest-ever homegrown talents. Some murmurs have even suggested that the shirt hasn't been retired, but simply reserved for Jobe's emergence in the first team – or Jude's return.

"I always said that I don't see a roof on Jude Bellingham's potential because he is very complete," says Clotet. "Going to a team like Dortmund, I didn't find it strange. I always thought he was at this level. He told me that he wanted to go abroad because there he could fulfil the things he wanted to do.

"I remember he said, 'Maybe one day I'll be back at the club where it started.'"

In Dortmund's No.22 jersey, Bellingham has already inspired a DFB-Pokal triumph and started Champions League games against Lazio, Sevilla and Manchester City. Only an exceptionally harsh refereeing decision preventing him from scoring at the Etihad, too.

At the end of the 2020-21 campaign, a friend from back home texted Bellingham to congratulate him on an excellent first season in Germany.

A reply was returned instantly: "I've got to beat it next season."

Englishman abroad... Sancho and Bellingham

> "He was head and shoulders above some of the first-team players who'd had long careers – that's how good he was"
>
> **Paul Robinson, former Birmingham City Under-23s coach**

Disallowed...the midfielder reacts to his goal being ruled out against Manchester City

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The month in numbers

The facts and stats that have caught our eye in the world of football this month...

27

Unbeaten run by Algeria, beating the record previously held by Ivory Coast for an African international team.

3

The number of months that Andre Onana's doping ban has been reduced by – the Ajax goalkeeper will now sit out nine months instead of 12.

185

Number of international caps won by Kuwait forward Bader Al Mutawa, making him the second-most capped male player in history after overtaking Egypt's Ahmed Hassan.

Veteran... Kuwait forward and captain Bader Al Mutawa

38

Asian Champions League goals scored by Montenegrin striker Dejan Damjanovic making him the highest goalscorer in the tournament's history.

1

Mikkel Damsgaard is the first player born in the 21st century to score at a European Championship.

109

International goals scored by Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo – placing him level with Iran's Ali Daei on the all-time list.

113

Colombia caps won by goalkeeper David Ospina – taking him past the record previously held by Carlos Valderrama as the country's most-capped player.

74

International goals scored by India's Sunil Chhetri – only three active players have more: Ronaldo, Leo Messi and UAE's Ali Mabkhout.

6,472

Number of minutes played in the 2020-21 season by Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes – more than any other player at the European Championship.

25

Years between Federico Chiesa and Enrico's goals at the European Championship – the first-ever father-and-son duo to score in the competition.

151

Argentina caps won by Lionel Messi, who overtook Javier Mascherano's record of 147 during the Copa America.

13

Years between Luka Modric's first and last Euro goals – making him both Croatia's youngest and oldest goalscorer in the competition.

Then and now...Luka Modric at the Euros in 2008 and 2021

Record-breaker...Leo Messi celebrates scoring v Chile

58

Leo Messi scored the 57th and 58th free-kicks of his career at the Copa America, placing him just one shy of the all-time top ten.

52

In contrast, Cristiano Ronaldo took his 52nd major tournament free-kick for Portugal during Euro 2020 – he has only scored once.

10

After beating North Macedonia 3-0 in the group stage at the European Championship, the Netherlands had scored two or more goals in each of their last ten matches, breaking a record set in 1935.

6

Copa America penalty shootouts lost by Uruguay – more than any other team in the competition's history – with only one victory in their last six attempts.

USWNT legend...Carli Lloyd

38

The age of forward Carli Lloyd when she scored for USA v Mexico, making her the oldest player to score for the team, her 126th goal in her 306th game.

95

The minute Torquay United keeper Lucas Covolan scored to send the English National League play-off final to extra-time, although he ultimately saw his team lose to Hartlepool United on penalties.

Sint Maarten

STEVE MENARY

Big dreams for tiny Caribbean island

Full FIFA membership could help transform the Dutch Caribbean island's fortunes

Sint Maarten...the team line up ahead of their clash with the Turks & Caicos Islands

The start of 2022 World Cup qualifying was a fillip for many national teams but not for those outside of FIFA's fold, such as the Dutch Caribbean territory of Sint Maarten.

Sint Maarten played only sporadically until the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved politically in 2010. Three years later, the Sint Maarten Soccer Association, the SXMFF, was made a full member of CONCACAF, with the national team playing in the Caribbean Cup qualifiers in 2016.

That proved unsuccessful but the advent of the Nations League brought some success. The team suffered drubbings against Haiti and Bermuda but beat Saint-Martin – the French territory that shares the northern half of the same island – 4-3 in 2019.

Subsequent games brought respectable defeats but Sint Maarten haven't played since a stoppage-time goal saw the team edged out 3-2 by the Turks & Caicos Islands in November 2019. The coronavirus pandemic hindered development, but so has the lack of FIFA membership.

FIFA membership would bring funds that could help repair sports facilities that were damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017

Aruba have been a FIFA member since 1988 and Curacao took over the Antilles' membership, but the world body's rejection last year of a bid from another Dutch Caribbean island, Bonaire, was a blow to Sint Maarten's aspirations.

Action-packed...the 3-2 defeat in 2019 was Sint Maarten's last fixture

Unlike Bonaire, Sint Maarten has a looser affiliation with the Netherlands so may stand a better chance. Sint Maarten secretary Gene Kemble says: "The SXMFF definitely wants to become a member of FIFA."

FIFA membership would bring funds that could help repair sports facilities that were damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017. "The playing fields are still damaged," adds Kemble. "Most sporting facilities on the island are government controlled, so we have to hope that they make the necessary upgrades to the facilities very soon."

The Dutch federation, the KNVB, sent an instructor to train 21 local coaches in May. The island league comprises nine clubs and was completed in March, with Flames United crowned winners.

Islanders trying to play overseas usually look for scholarships in North America, such as Djai Essed, who went to Feather River College in California. Midfielder Yannick Dinane however, took a different route.

After coming to Europe, he played for Cardiff & Vale College, then in 2019 signed for Dinas Powys in the Welsh League Division 1, the third tier of Welsh football.

Dinane describes his spell in Wales as a "great experience" but is a free agent again. "It's complicated looking for a club when you have no help getting connected with teams," says Dinane, who came on as a second-half substitute in the Turks & Caicos game but has no idea when his next cap will come, as the national team currently has no coach.

When a coach is eventually appointed, they will have a small domestic pool to choose from: Sint Maarten's population is only 43,000.

Theoretically anyone with a Dutch passport is eligible and players from Europe have featured, such as Dutch teacher Rick de Punder, who went to Sint Maarten for work and featured for the national team alongside colleague Raymond Wolff.

Neighbours Curacao have mined Europe for players but Kemble says: "In that sense our player pool is very big but we definitely look at players who have a background or connection with Sint Maarten."

Sint Maarten's dreams are relatively limited but could be transformed on many levels by FIFA membership.

CONCACAF Nations League

MARTIN DEL PALACIO LANGER

USA beat Mexico to win Nations League trophy

Hosts lift inaugural title after feisty clash with their arch-rivals

The rivalry is back. In a chaotic and dramatic match, with unexpected heroes and plenty of controversy, the United States beat Mexico 3-2 to win the first CONCACAF Nations League and break an eight-year drought in official matches against its regional arch-rivals.

As expected, the result provoked diametrically different reactions among players, press and fans in the two countries. North of the border they described the victory as "historic" and considered that the match had been one of the best in the history of the rivalry; down south, they generally considered it to be a blip on the radar and preferred to focus on the specific errors of Tata Martino's team.

Reality, as always, is somewhere between the two extremes. The match was very exciting and marked the first official title for the new generation of the USMNT but, having taken place just a month before the Gold Cup and with Qatar 2022 qualifiers starting in September, it may not have ever-lasting consequences.

The truth is that the fans were on the edge of their seats from literally the first minute to the last. After just 59 seconds, an error by American defender Mark McKenzie allowed Porto winger Jesus Corona to open the scoring for Mexico, slamming the ball into the roof of the net to the delight of the majority of the crowd in Denver, Colorado, composed of Mexican immigrants.

After 20 minutes of end-to-end football, the next five completely changed the course of the game. First, Mexico seemed to have put

Winners...captain Christian Pulisic lifts the trophy

Starlet...Mexico's Diego Lainez teases the United States defence

Feisty... tensions ran high during the final

the game out of reach when Hector Moreno finished off a cross from Hirving Lozano at the far post. However, after consulting VAR, Panamanian referee John Pitti decided to disallow the goal, even though there appeared to be no evidence of offside. 180 seconds later, the United States equalised when Giovanni Reyna finished a scramble in the Mexican box after a corner.

The first half continued to be an intense affair, with chances at both ends, the most important of which came three minutes before the break, when Napoli's Hirving Lozano failed to beat Zack Steffen in a one-on-one.

The American side improved in the second half, forcing some outstanding saves from Guillermo Ochoa, but it was Mexico who took the lead in the 78th minute. Young starlet Diego Lainez, just minutes after coming onto the field, sent a shot between three defenders to beat reserve keeper Ethan Horvath, who had replaced the injured Steffen midway through the second half.

Horvath would have the last laugh but more drama was still the come. Just two minutes after *El Tri*'s goal, the United States equalised again. And it was once again from a corner, their most important weapon. Weston McKennie got the best of the Mexican defence and with a strong header, made Ochoa's dive useless.

The match went into extra-time, and two new protagonists appeared. The first was the referee Pitti, who whistled two highly controversial penalties. The first was at the 108th minute, when Christian Pulisic fell in the Mexican box. At first, the referee did not consider it a foul, but changed his mind after consulting the VAR. The replays, however, seemed to show that Mexican defender Carlos Salcedo had touched the ball before Pulisic. Amid the chaos, Mexico's coach, Tata Martino, was sent off for hugging the referees while watching the VAR screen.

The American No.10 converted the spot-kick and put the Americans ahead for the first time in the match. Mexico rushed forward desperately and, at the last minute, their prayers seemed to have been answered when Pitti, again with the help of the VAR, gave another very dubious penalty. McKenzie handled the ball, but only after the ball was fired at him from close-range by a Luis Romo header.

Andres Guardado, Mexico's captain, prepared to take his penalty, with two countries holding their breath. But his shot, weak and badly-placed, was saved by Ethan Horvath, who became the unexpected hero of the night.

And thus ended an unforgettable night in Denver, Colorado, with a revitalised rivalry and much to remember for each side. The next few months will tell if it really was the first of many achievements for this exciting new American generation, or if the result was just a setback in the continued Mexican dominance of the last decade.

Penalty...Pulisic wins the decisive spot-kick

Man of the match... substitute goalkeeper Ethan Horvath was the hero

Argentina

JOEL RICHARDS

Colon make history with first-ever title

Historic victory for Santa Fe club, while Boca Juniors legend Carlos Tevez is ready to leave Argentina

Thousands flouted restrictions and disregarded social-distancing to take to the streets. Many preferred to stay at home with their family and simply cry. One drilled a hole in the urn containing his father's ashes and poured red wine in, to come good on the promise to drink that bottle bought back in 2005 for the club's centenary the day the *Sabalero* – the Shad fishers – finally win a trophy.

The celebrations continued for days in Santa Fe, Argentina, as Colon won their first-ever title in 116 years of history. Three well-crafted second-half goals secured the historic win over Racing Club in the Copa de la Liga final. In the semi-final they had defeated Independiente, the King of Cups. Winning this title was to have punched well above the weight.

Champions... Colon celebrate their historic achievement

42-year-old coach Eduardo Dominguez was in tears by the final whistle and did not let the trophy out of his sight afterwards – he said he'd be sleeping with it that night. "Bringing in Dominguez was key," said club president Jose Vignatti by way of explaining how the club with a limited budget and few star names won this competition. Dominguez preferred not to give interviews. His future is not clear with his current deal due to end. "We respected him and his idea and that took us to the title," Alexis Castro, one of the scorers in the final, said of his coach.

Dominguez oversaw the project, but Colon were largely guided on the pitch by their spiritual leader, Luis "*Pulga*" Rodriguez.

Joint top scorer and with the most assists in the competition, at 36 years of age, standing 5'4" tall, the *Pulga* (Flea) is now a cult figure in Argentine football. He is the archetypal product of the dustbowl pitches – the *potrero* – where kids learn the game. He still plays in much the same way, a tricky and devious playmaker in the revered No.10 role.

Dejected...Racing's Enzo Copetti

As a teen he was whisked off to Europe for trials but was abandoned by his agent in Bucharest. Disenchanted with football, back in his native northern Argentina Rodriguez began working as a builder before returning to the professional game. He spent his entire career in Argentina, notably at Atletico Tucuman where he is their second all-time top goalscorer.

He left Tucuman under acrimonious circumstances in 2019 and with fans feeling let down. He was not leaving them for the prestige of playing for one of Argentina's "Big Five", nor was he joining a club that could offer him a lucrative final payday. He was joining Colon – a mid-table side that had never won anything.

Yet with Rodriguez, Colon reached the final of the 2019 Copa Sudamericana, South America's Europa League equivalent, where they ultimately lost to Ecuadorians Independiente del Valle. On the back of that defeat, coach Dominguez joined and exactly 100 games later Colon celebrated their first-ever title. They have now qualified for the 2022 Copa Libertadores. "You can't buy glory with money," Rodriguez said after the final. "You can't buy this happiness."

Hero...captain Luis Rodriguez

Minutes before the final started, down in Buenos Aires there was a very different mood at the Bombonera. Carlos Tevez was announcing he was leaving Boca Juniors. "I don't know what will happen with my career," he admitted. Tevez' father passed away recently. "I haven't even had time to mourn him." The Apache made it clear he would not be playing for Boca or in Argentina again, but his future is uncertain. "Physically I could play on, but mentally I can't."

While Tevez's future is unclear, so too is what comes next for domestic football here. Argentina is in the midst of a brutal wave of COVID-19 infections. Critical care bed occupancy in Colon's province of Santa Fe was at 98 per cent at the time of writing, though it is lower in the most populated region in and around Buenos Aires. The Copa de la Liga was an improvised knockout tournament to make up for the absence of a league competition after lockdown in 2020. The next league season is pencilled in to begin in mid-July.

> "You can't buy glory with money. You can't buy this happiness"
>
> Colon captain Luis "*Pulga*" Rodriguez

Departing... Carlos Tevez

After the Copa America break, the only certainty is for the clubs involved in the Copa Libertadores last 16. Boca must plan without Tevez. Defensa y Justicia, Velez Sarsfield and Racing are all involved, while River Plate meet Argentinos Juniors in the all-Argentine tie. River wrote a most peculiar chapter in the club's folklore in the group stage, playing with injured midfielder Enzo Perez in goal and unable to pick a single substitute against Independiente Santa Fe of Colombia because of the outbreak of coronavirus infections in the squad.

Libya

MARK GLEESON

Libya...the national team lines up ahead of June's Arab Cup qualifiers

Football returns to Libya

Both the national team and the domestic league have returned to some semblance of normality in 2021 after years of turbulence

The shackles of their international ban lifted, it is now full steam ahead for football in Libya, hoping to profit from a period of some normality after a decade of turbulence.

The North African country has been in the grips of civil strife since the revolution that toppled Muammar Al Gaddafi and left a country torn apart by disparate warlords battling over the considerable oil spoils. A United Nations-facilitated peace process established a unity government that has brought relative peace and quiet over the last year, but it has a tenuous hold on power and there remain rebel forces that threatened the order.

But after years of isolation there has been no time to waste for Libyan football, whose Premier League is back in action, albeit with 24 teams divided into eastern and western zones.

The last properly completed season was the 2017-18 campaign and even then, with the security situation fragile and travel both dangerous and difficult, clubs were divided into four geographical zones followed by an American-style final four-team play-off.

Throughout, Libya kept competing in the two annual continental club competitions, sending clubs into the African Champions League and the African Confederation Cup even though they had to host their "home" matches in either neighbouring Egypt or Tunisia.

And, not only competing, but also achieving enough results to twice lift Libya's ranking into the top 12 of the CAF's club coefficient, allowing two representatives in both competitions.

This season Al Ahli Benghazi got to the group phase of the Confederation Cup, after dropping down from the Champions League, and at the end of their campaign finally got to host foreign opponents at home.

Experienced coach...Javier Clemente

Talisman...Ali Musrati

Their ban was lifted earlier in the year and the Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in March against neighbours Tunisia marked the first home game in seven years for the national side. Muaid Ellafi scored first for the hosts, but any hopes of a fairy tale at the Martyrs of February Stadium in Benghazi quickly evaporated as Tunisia responded without any sense of sentimentality and went onto a 5-2 triumph.

Manchester-born...Crotone midfielder Ahmad Benali

That game was followed one week later by a visit from South African club Orlando Pirates to Al Ahli Benghazi. "The city looked battered and full of bullet holes and damage but there was never any sense of any danger for us," said Pirates general manager Floyd Mbhele.

Enyimba of Nigeria followed but Al Ahli did not make it into the last eight, having already exceeded expectation.

But in the new season Ahli Benghazi lead their group, unbeaten after their opening 13 games, while Libya's most successful club Al Ittihad, top the western zone table, also unbeaten, as are their great rivals Al Ahli Tripoli in second place.

Many clubs have the financial muscle to bring in both foreign coaches and imports from elsewhere in Africa, although not of the same quality of personnel that go to clubs in nearby Egypt, Tunisia or Morocco.

Infrastructure, however, is limited. Many stadiums, damaged by the conflict, are in need of repair before they can be used again.

In June, veteran Spanish coach Javier Clemente returned for a second spell in charge of the national team, and immediately found there is much work to be done. In mid-June they failed to win for a ninth match in a row – suffering a 1-0 defeat to Sudan in Qatar during the Arab Cup preliminaries.

In September, the group phase of World Cup qualifiers belatedly gets underway and there will be home advantage for Libya against Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's Gabon. They also face Angola and Egypt, who will be the favourites, in their group, with only the winner through to the decisive play-offs.

Clemente, former coach of Spain and Cameroon, is something of a mythical figure in the North African country. He was also in charge in 2014 when Libya won the African Nations Championship in South Africa – the uniquely African competition for quasi-national teams made up of home-based players only. It was also done at a time of huge insecurity in Libya and much anguish for players who spent months away from home.

The last properly completed Libyan Premier League season was the 2017-18 campaign

The last couple of years have seen a trickle of Libyan players head to more established leagues, something unthinkable during Gaddafi's years as supreme leader. Ali Musrati is their talisman, scoring against Leicester City in the Europa League last season for Portugal's Braga. They have also found players from the exile community like Manchester-born Ahmad Benali. On these foundations, it is hoped, a bright future can be built.

Asia

JOHN DUERDEN

Asia's World Cup candidates whittled down to final 12

The usual candidates will battle it out for the four automatic spots in Qatar

Almost two years after it started, the second round of Asian qualification for the 2022 World Cup ended in June. The eight group winners progressed to the third round along with the four best-performing second-placed teams. This final dozen, which contains all the teams you would expect bar one, will be split into two groups of six and, from September, will fight it out for Asia's four automatic places in Qatar.

The only surprise along the way was Uzbekistan's falling by the wayside. The White Wolves came close to a first World Cup appearance in 2006, 2014 and 2018 but failed when the pressure was on. The same thing happened again on June 15 even if the team were a lot further away from the tournament. Just needing a draw with Saudi Arabia to be one of the four best runners-up, the Central Asians lost 3-0 and went out as the Saudis won Group D in style.

Australia and Japan did not struggle

Takumi Minamino... Japan's top goalscorer

Brazil-born...China striker Elkeson

Towering...Australia's Harry Souttar

at all and both won all eight of their games. Japan did so with a scoreline of 46 goals for – Takumi Minamino contributed nine and equalled Keisuke Honda's Japanese record of scoring in seven consecutive qualifiers – and two conceded. With wins of 14-0 over Mongolia and 10-0 over Myanmar, Asia's No.1 team would have preferred stricter tests – but those will come later.

Australia didn't score quite as many though, having played seven of their eight games overseas. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided that, when the round resumed, the games would take place in centralised venues to reduce travel. With Group B going to Kuwait City, the Socceroos had to contend with temperatures approaching 50 degrees, but looked comfortable nevertheless in finishing first with 24 points. As they weren't really pushed, it is hard to know how good the team is, but one definite plus is the emergence of Stoke City's towering centre-back Harry Souttar. The Scottish-born 22-year-old scored six goals in his first five games for Australia as Asian defences struggled to deal with his height and ability in the air.

Syria were the second team to book their place in the third round with seven wins out of seven in Group A and Omar Al Somah getting the goals. The team reached the final play-off in 2018 but were narrowly defeated by Australia. Things could be different this time. Their only defeat was the final match against China, when Syria had already progressed, meaning that the Chinese went through as one of the four best runners-up. Team Dragon started slowly and at the halfway stage were so far behind Syria that top spot was soon out of sight. They ended with four successive wins however, helped by their naturalised contingent – Brazilians Elkeson and Alan Carvalho, and English-born Nico Yennaris (now known as Li Ke) and Tyias Browning, formerly of Brentford and Everton respectively.

With wins of 14-0 over Mongolia and 10-0 over Myanmar, Asia's No.1 team [Japan] would have preferred stricter tests – but those will come later

The stage was complicated by North Korea's withdrawal from Group H in May, citing COVID-19 concerns, reducing the number of nations from 40 to 39. It also meant that, when calculating the runners-up table, results against the group's wooden spooners were removed which helped some more than others.

Lebanon, who lost 2-0 to DPRK in a result that was wiped, definitely benefitted from their exit, finishing second behind South Korea and going through ahead of Uzbekistan. South Korea, as expected for a team going for a tenth successive World Cup appearance, made it through as did Iran, though Team Melli had to beat Iraq in the final game to make sure. They did but both teams progressed from Group C to the next stage.

A similar situation unfolded in Group G. United Arab Emirates, looking to add to a sole appearance back in 1990, started the final day two points behind Vietnam. UAE defeated the Golden Stars 3-2 but, once again, both teams progressed. For Vietnam it is the first time to get so far along the road to the World Cup and given the improvements made over the last few years, Southeast Asia's sole representatives will give anybody a game.

Oman completed the dozen in a fitting tribute to coach Pim Verbeek. The Dutchman, who also led South Korea from 2006 to 2007 and took Australia to the World Cup in South Africa in 2010, was in charge of Oman at the 2019 Asian Cup even though he was battling with cancer at the time. The illness forced him to step down soon after and cost him his life in November 2019. Wherever Verbeek is, he will be watching the Reds in what should be ten fascinating qualifiers in the third round.

Top goalscorer... UAE's Ali Mabkhout netted 11 times

JULY 16-AUGUST 5, 2021

Global diary

Games and dates to pencil in for the month ahead

(All kick-off times are BST)

Friday July 16

CONCACAF: The Gold Cup group stage continues, with Canada (12.30am), USA (2.30am) and Jamaica (11.30pm) all in action.
AFRICA: The semi-finals of the COSAFA Cup – an international tournament for teams from Southern Africa – begin.

Saturday July 17

CONCACAF: In Group C at the Gold Cup, Suriname face Costa Rica at 1.30am.

Sunday July 18

CONCACAF: Group B concludes, with Canada v USA the standout fixture at 10pm, with Grenada v Qatar (12.30am) and Panama v Honduras (2.30am) taking place in the early hours of the morning.
SOUTH AFRICA: The final of the COSAFA Cup kicks off at 4pm in Gqeberha, with the third-place play-off taking place three hours earlier.
MOROCCO: Al Ahly of Egypt seek to defend their CAF Champions League crown, taking on South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs in the final at Stade Mohammed V, Casablanca.

Monday July 19

CONCACAF: Late replacements Guatemala face Trinidad & Tobago while Mexico meet El Salvador in the final game of Group A.

Tuesday July 20

EUROPE: Two days of second round Champions League qualifiers begin, starting with Celtic v Midtjylland and PSV v Galatasaray. The second leg matches take place a week later.
SOUTH AMERICA: The CONMEBOL club competitions reach crunch point, with second legs of both the Copa Libertadores and Copa Sudamericana taking place over three days. In the former, Boca Juniors face Atletico Mineiro, while Santos host Independiente in the latter.

Wednesday July 21

CONCACAF: The Gold Cup group stage concludes, with Costa Rica v Jamaica, Honduras v Qatar and Panama v Grenada.
JAPAN: The Women's Olympic football group stage gets underway, starting with Great Britain v Chile at 8.30am. Elsewhere, 2016 finalists Sweden meet 2012 winners USA (9.30am), hosts Japan face Canada (11.30pm), and Australia meet New Zealand (12.30pm).

Thursday July 22

JAPAN: In the Olympics, the Men's competition begins, with Brazil v Germany (12.30pm) the standout fixture, while hosts Japan face South Africa at midday.
EUROPE: The first legs of second round qualifiers for the new Europa Conference League take place, with the likes of FCSB, Maccabi Tel Aviv, CSKA Sofia, Feyenoord, Partizan Belgrade, Basel and Aberdeen involved.

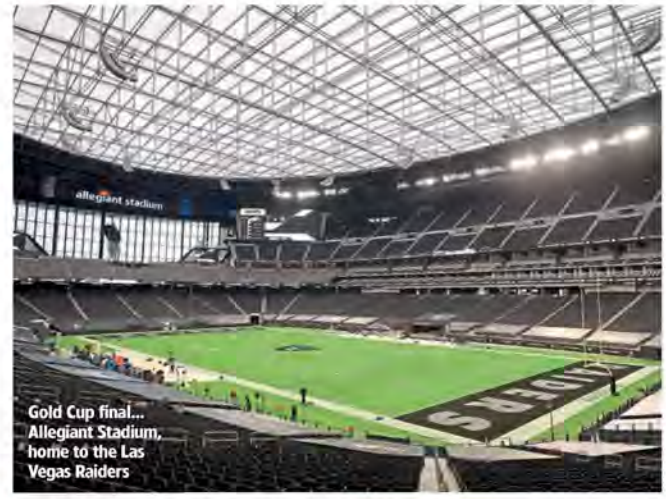
Saturday 24 July

JAPAN: The Women's Olympics continues, with Team GB v Japan the standout fixture at 11.30am, followed by Netherlands v Brazil.

Going for gold... USA's Megan Rapinoe

Sunday July 25

CONCACAF: The State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, hosts the first two CONCACAF Gold Cup quarter-finals, at 12.30am and 3am.
JAPAN: The second round of group stage fixtures in the Men's Olympics begins with Egypt v Argentina at 8.30am.
SCOTLAND: The final game of the Scottish League Cup group stage sees Hearts host Inverness Caledonian Thistle at 5.15pm.



Gold Cup final... Allegiant Stadium, home to the Las Vegas Raiders

Monday July 26

CONCACAF: The third and fourth Gold Cup quarter-final matches take place at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Tuesday July 27

JAPAN: The Women's Olympics tournament continues, with USA v Australia (9am), Canada v Great Britain (midday), and Brazil v Zambia (12.30pm) among the final group games.

Wednesday July 28

JAPAN: The Men's Olympic football group stage concludes, with games including Spain v Argentina (midday) and France v Japan (12.30pm).

Friday July 30

CONCACAF: The two Gold Cup semi-finals take place, one at the Q2 Stadium in Austin, the other at the NRG Stadium, Houston.
JAPAN: The four Women's Olympics quarter-final ties take place, with the first match at 9am.

Saturday July 31

JAPAN: The Men's Olympics quarter-finals also begin at 9am.
SCOTLAND: The 2021-22 Scottish Premiership season begins, starting with holders Rangers hosting Livingston at 1.30pm, while Celtic's campaign begins at Hearts at 8pm.
FRANCE: The first silverware of the season is handed out in the Champions' Trophy final between Ligue 1 champions Lille and French Cup winners PSG.

Monday August 2

CONCACAF: The kings of North and Central America will be crowned in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final at the Allegiant Stadium in Paradise, Nevada.
JAPAN: The two Women's Olympic semi-finals take place at 9am and midday, with the Men's games kicking off at the same time the following day.

Thursday August 5

JAPAN: The three final days of Olympics football begins. Firstly it's the Women's bronze medal match, with the final taking place the following day ahead of the Men's third-place game. The Men's gold medal match takes place on August 7.

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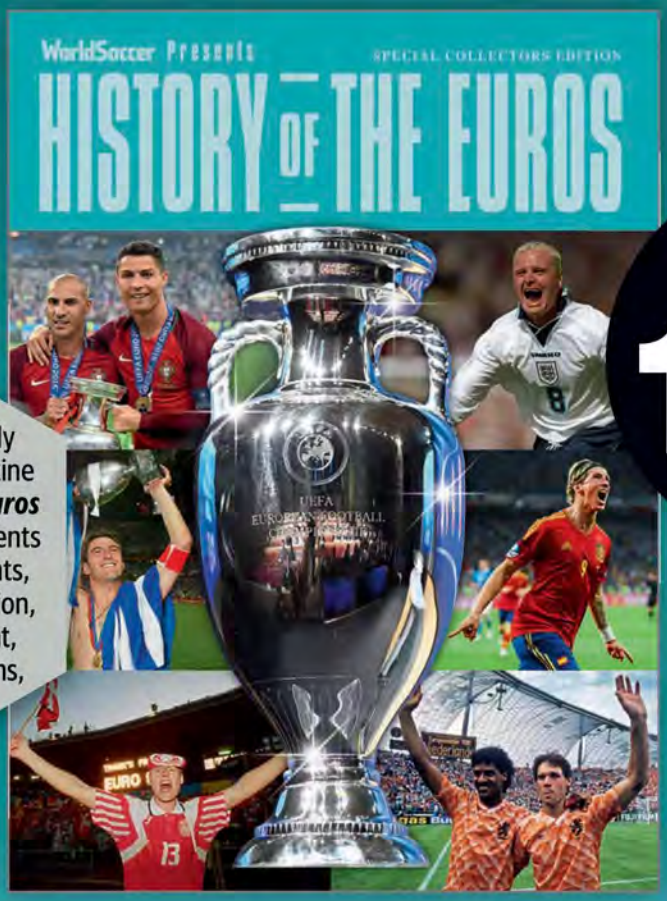

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

AUSTRIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Alexander **SCHLAGER**	(25) 01.02.96	LASK
12	Pavao **PERVAN**	(33) 13.11.87	Wolfsburg (Ger)
13	Daniel **BACHMANN**	(26) 09.07.94	Watford (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
2	Andreas **ULMER**	(35) 30.10.85	Red Bull Salzburg
3	Aleksander **DRAGOVIC**	(30) 06.03.91	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
4	Martin **HINTEREGGER**	(28) 07.09.92	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
5	Stefan **POSCH**	(24) 14.05.97	Hoffenheim (Ger)
8	David **ALABA**	(28) 24.06.92	Bayern Munich (Ger)
15	Philipp **LIENHART**	(24) 11.07.96	Freiburg (Ger)
16	Christopher **TRIMMEL**	(34) 24.02.87	Union Berlin (Ger)
21	Stefan **LAINER**	(28) 27.08.92	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
26	Marco **FRIEDL**	(23) 16.03.98	Werder Bremen (Ger)
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Stefan **ILSANKER**	(32) 18.05.89	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
9	Marcel **SABITZER**	(27) 17.03.94	RB Leipzig (Ger)
10	Florian **GRILLITSCH**	(25) 07.08.95	Hoffenheim (Ger)
14	Julian **BAUMGARTLINGER**	(33) 02.01.88	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
17	Louis **SCHAUB**	(26) 29.12.94	Luzern (Sui)
18	Alessandro **SCHOPF**	(27) 07.02.94	Schalke (Ger)
22	Valentino **LAZARO**	(25) 24.03.96	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
23	Xaver **SCHLAGER**	(23) 28.09.97	Wolfsburg (Ger)
24	Konrad **LAIMER**	(24) 27.05.97	RB Leipzig (Ger)
FORWARDS			
7	Marko **ARNAUTOVIC**	(32) 19.04.89	Shanghai Port (Chn)
11	Michael **GREGORITSCH**	(27) 18.04.94	Augsburg (Ger)
19	Christoph **BAUMGARTNER**	(21) 01.08.99	Hoffenheim (Ger)
20	Karim **ONISIWO**	(29) 17.03.92	Mainz (Ger)
25	Sasa **KALAJDZIC**	(23) 07.07.97	Stuttgart (Ger)
COACH			
Franco **FODA** (Ger)		(55) 23.04.66	

BELGIUM

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Thibaut **COURTOIS**	(29) 11.05.92	Real Madrid (Spa)
12	Simon **MIGNOLET**	(33) 06.03.88	Club Brugge
13	Matz **SELS**	(29) 26.02.92	Strasbourg (Fra)
DEFENDERS			
2	Toby **ALDERWEIRELD**	(32) 02.03.89	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
3	Thomas **VERMAELEN**	(35) 14.11.85	Vissel Kobe (Jpn)
4	Dedryck **BOYATA**	(30) 28.11.90	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
5	Jan **VERTONGHEN**	(34) 24.04.87	Benfica (Por)
15	Thomas **MEUNIER**	(29) 12.09.91	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
18	Jason **DENAYER**	(25) 28.06.95	Lyon (Fra)
21	Timothy **CASTAGNE**	(25) 05.12.95	Leicester City (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Axel **WITSEL**	(32) 12.01.89	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
7	Kevin **DE BRUYNE**	(29) 28.06.91	Manchester City (Eng)
8	Youri **TIELEMANS**	(24) 07.05.97	Leicester City (Eng)
11	Yannick **CARRASCO**	(27) 04.09.93	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
16	Thorgan **HAZARD**	(28) 29.03.93	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
17	Hans **VANAKEN**	(28) 24.08.92	Club Brugge
19	Leander **DENDONCKER**	(26) 15.04.95	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
22	Nacer **CHADLI**	(31) 02.08.89	Istanbul Basaksehir (Tur)
26	Dennis **PRAET**	(27) 14.05.94	Leicester City (Eng)
FORWARDS			
9	Romelu **LUKAKU**	(28) 13.05.93	Internazionale (Ita)
10	Eden **HAZARD**	(30) 07.01.91	Real Madrid (Spa)
14	Dries **MERTENS**	(34) 06.05.87	Napoli (Ita)
20	Christian **BENTEKE**	(30) 03.12.90	Crystal Palace (Eng)
23	Michy **BATSHUAYI**	(27) 02.10.93	Crystal Palace (Eng)
24	Leandro **TROSSARD**	(26) 04.12.94	Brighton & Hove Albion (Eng)
25	Jeremy **DOKU**	(19) 27.05.02	Rennes (Fra)
COACH			
Roberto **MARTINEZ** (Spa)		(47) 13.07.73	

CROATIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Dominik **LIVAKOVIC**	(26) 09.01.95	Dinamo Zagreb
12	Lovre **KALINIC**	(31) 03.04.90	Hajduk Split
23	Simon **SLUGA**	(28) 17.03.93	Luton Town (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
2	Sime **VRSALJKO**	(29) 10.01.92	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3	Borna **BARISIC**	(28) 10.11.92	Rangers (Sco)
5	Duje **CALETA-CAR**	(24) 17.09.96	Marseille (Fra)
6	Dejan **LOVREN**	(31) 05.07.89	Zenit St Petersburg (Rus)
16	Mile **SKORIC**	(29) 19.06.91	Osijek
21	Domagoj **VIDA**	(32) 29.04.89	Besiktas (Tur)
22	Josip **JURANOVIC**	(25) 16.08.95	Legia Warsaw (Pol)
24	Domagoj **BRADARIC**	(21) 10.12.99	Lille (Fra)
25	Josko **GVARDIOL**	(19) 23.01.02	RB Leipzig (Ger)
MIDFIELDERS			
8	Mateo **KOVACIC**	(27) 06.05.94	Chelsea (Eng)
10	Luka **MODRIC**	(35) 09.09.85	Real Madrid (Spa)
11	Marcelo **BROZOVIC**	(28) 16.11.92	Internazionale (Ita)
13	Nikola **VLASIC**	(23) 04.10.97	CSKA Moscow (Rus)
15	Mario **PASALIC**	(26) 09.02.95	Atalanta (Ita)
18	Mislav **ORSIC**	(28) 29.12.92	Dinamo Zagreb
19	Milan **BADELJ**	(32) 25.02.89	Genoa (Ita)
26	Luka **IVANUSEC**	(22) 26.11.98	Dinamo Zagreb
FORWARDS			
4	Ivan **PERISIC**	(32) 02.02.89	Internazionale (Ita)
7	Josip **BREKALO**	(22) 23.06.98	Wolfsburg (Ger)
9	Andrej **KRAMARIC**	(29) 19.06.91	Hoffenheim (Ger)
14	Ante **BUDIMIR**	(29) 22.07.91	Osasuna (Spa)
17	Ante **REBIC**	(27) 21.09.93	Milan (Ita)
20	Bruno **PETKOVIC**	(26) 16.09.94	Dinamo Zagreb
COACH			
Zlatko **DALIC**		(54) 26.10.66	

Ruled out...Belgium's Timothy Castagne (R) playing against Russia before getting injured

Late call-up...England defender Ben White replaced the injured Trent Alexander-Arnold

CZECH REPUBLIC

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Tomas **VACLIK**	(32) 29.03.89	Sevilla (Spa)
16	Ales **MANDOUS**	(29) 21.04.92	Sigma Olomouc
23	Tomas **KOUBEK**	(28) 26.08.92	Augsburg (Ger)
DEFENDERS			
2	Pavel **KADERABEK**	(29) 25.04.92	Hoffenheim (Ger)
3	Ondrej **CELUSTKA**	(31) 18.06.89	Sparta Prague
4	Jakub **BRABEC**	(28) 06.08.92	Viktoria Plzen
5	Vladimir **COUFAL**	(28) 22.08.92	West Ham United (Eng)
6	Tomas **KALAS**	(28) 15.05.93	Bristol City (Eng)
17	David **ZIMA**	(20) 08.11.00	Slavia Prague
18	Jan **BORIL**	(30) 11.01.91	Slavia Prague
22	Ales **MATEJU**	(24) 03.06.96	Brescia (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS			
7	Antonin **BARAK**	(26) 03.12.94	Verona (Ita)
8	Vladimir **DARIDA**	(30) 08.08.90	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
9	Tomas **HOLES**	(28) 31.03.93	Slavia Prague
12	Lukas **MASOPUST**	(28) 12.02.93	Slavia Prague
13	Petr **SEVCIK**	(27) 04.05.94	Slavia Prague
14	Jakub **JANKTO**	(25) 19.01.96	Sampdoria (Ita)
15	Tomas **SOUCEK**	(26) 27.02.95	West Ham United (Eng)
21	Alex **KRAL**	(23) 19.05.98	Spartak Moscow (Rus)
25	Jakub **PESEK**	(27) 24.06.93	Slovan Liberec
26	Michal **SADILEK**	(22) 31.05.99	Slovan Liberec
FORWARDS			
10	Patrik **SCHICK**	(25) 24.01.96	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
11	Michael **KRMENCIK**	(28) 15.03.93	PAOK (Gre)
19	Adam **HLOZEK**	(18) 25.07.02	Sparta Prague
20	Matej **VYDRA**	(29) 01.05.92	Burnley (Eng)
24	Tomas **PEKHART**	(32) 26.05.89	Legia Warsaw (Pol)
COACH			
Jaroslav **SILHAVY**		(59) 03.11.61	

DENMARK

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Kasper **SCHMEICHEL**	(34) 05.11.86	Leicester City (Eng)
16	Jonas **LOSSL**	(32) 01.02.89	Midtjylland
22	Frederik **RONNOW**	(28) 04.08.92	Schalke (Ger)
DEFENDERS			
2	Joachim **ANDERSEN**	(25) 31.05.96	Fulham (Eng)
3	Jannik **VESTERGAARD**	(28) 03.08.92	Southampton (Eng)
4	Simon **KJAER**	(32) 26.03.89	Milan (Ita)
5	Joakim **MAEHLE**	(24) 20.05.97	Atalanta (Ita)
6	Andreas **CHRISTENSEN**	(25) 10.04.96	Chelsea (Eng)
13	Mathias **JORGENSEN**	(31) 23.04.90	Copenhagen
17	Jens **STRYGER LARSEN**	(30) 21.02.91	Udinese (Ita)
18	Daniel **WASS**	(32) 31.05.89	Valencia (Spa)
26	Nicolai **BOILESEN**	(29) 16.02.92	Copenhagen
MIDFIELDERS			
7	Robert **SKOV**	(25) 20.05.96	Hoffenheim (Ger)
8	Thomas **DELANEY**	(29) 03.09.91	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
10	Christian **ERIKSEN**	(29) 14.02.92	Internazionale (Ita)
15	Christian **NORGAARD**	(27) 10.03.94	Brentford (Eng)
23	Pierre-Emile **HOJBJERG**	(25) 05.08.95	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
24	Mathias **JENSEN**	(25) 01.01.96	Brentford (Eng)
25	Anders **CHRISTIANSEN**	(31) 08.06.90	Malmo (Swe)
FORWARDS			
9	Martin **BRAITHWAITE**	(29) 05.06.91	Barcelona (Spa)
11	Andreas **SKOV OLSEN**	(21) 29.12.99	Bologna (Ita)
12	Kasper **DOLBERG**	(23) 06.10.97	Nice (Fra)
14	Mikkel **DAMSGAARD**	(20) 03.07.00	Sampdoria (Ita)
19	Jonas **WIND**	(22) 07.02.99	Copenhagen
20	Yussuf **POULSEN**	(26) 15.06.94	RB Leipzig (Ger)
21	Andreas **CORNELIUS**	(28) 16.03.93	Parma (Ita)
COACH			
Kasper **HJULMAND**		(49) 09.04.72	

ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Jordan **PICKFORD**	(27) 07.03.94	Everton
13	Aaron **RAMSDALE**	(23) 14.05.98	Sheffield United
23	Sam **JOHNSTONE**	(28) 25.03.93	West Bromwich Albion
DEFENDERS			
2	Kyle **WALKER**	(31) 28.05.90	Manchester City
3	Luke **SHAW**	(25) 12.07.95	Manchester United
5	John **STONES**	(27) 28.05.94	Manchester City
6	Harry **MAGUIRE**	(28) 05.03.93	Manchester United
12	Kieran **TRIPPIER**	(30) 19.09.90	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
15	Tyrone **MINGS**	(28) 13.03.93	Aston Villa
16	Conor **COADY**	(28) 25.02.93	Wolverhampton Wanderers
21	Ben **CHILWELL**	(24) 21.12.96	Chelsea
22	Ben **WHITE**	(23) 08.10.97	Brighton and Hove Albion
24	Reece **JAMES**	(21) 08.12.99	Chelsea
MIDFIELDERS			
4	Declan **RICE**	(22) 14.01.99	West Ham United
7	Jack **GREALISH**	(25) 10.09.95	Aston Villa
8	Jordan **HENDERSON**	(30) 17.06.90	Liverpool
14	Kalvin **PHILLIPS**	(25) 02.12.95	Leeds United
19	Mason **MOUNT**	(22) 10.01.99	Chelsea
25	Bukayo **SAKA**	(19) 05.09.01	Arsenal
26	Jude **BELLINGHAM**	(17) 29.06.03	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
FORWARDS			
9	Harry **KANE**	(27) 28.07.93	Tottenham Hotspur
10	Raheem **STERLING**	(26) 08.12.94	Manchester City
11	Marcus **RASHFORD**	(23) 31.10.97	Manchester United
17	Jadon **SANCHO**	(21) 25.03.00	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
18	Dominic **CALVERT-LEWIN**	(24) 16.03.97	Everton
20	Phil **FODEN**	(21) 28.05.00	Manchester City
COACH			
Gareth **SOUTHGATE**		(50) 03.09.70	

FINLAND

GOALKEEPERS

1	Lukas **HRADECKY**	(31) 24.11.89	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
12	Jesse **JORONEN**	(28) 21.03.93	Brescia (Ita)
23	Anssi **JAAKKOLA**	(34) 13.03.87	Bristol Rovers (Eng)

DEFENDERS

2	Paulus **ARAJUURI**	(32) 15.06.88	Pafos (Cyp)
3	Daniel **O'SHAUGHNESSY**	(26) 14.09.94	HJK Helsinki
4	Joona **TOIVIO**	(33) 04.04.88	Hacken (Swe)
5	Leo **VAISANEN**	(23) 23.07.97	Elfsborg (Swe)
15	Niko **HAMALAINEN**	(24) 05.03.97	Queens Park Rangers (Eng)
16	Thomas **LAM**	(27) 18.12.93	PEC Zwolle (Ned)
17	Nikolai **ALHO**	(28) 12.03.93	MTK Budapest (Hun)
18	Jere **URONEN**	(26) 13.07.94	Genk (Blg)
22	Jukka **RAITALA**	(32) 15.09.88	Minnesota United (USA)
25	Robert **IVANOV**	(26) 19.09.94	Warta Poznan (Pol)

MIDFIELDERS

6	Glen **KAMARA**	(25) 28.10.95	Rangers (Sco)
7	Robert **TAYLOR**	(26) 21.10.94	Brann (Nor)
8	Robin **LOD**	(28) 17.04.93	Minnesota United (USA)
9	Fredrik **JENSEN**	(23) 09.09.97	Augsburg (Ger)
11	Rasmus **SCHULLER**	(29) 18.06.91	Djurgarden (Swe)
13	Pyry **SOIRI**	(26) 22.09.94	Esbjerg (Den)
14	Tim **SPARV**	(34) 20.02.87	AEL (Gre)
19	Joni **KAUKO**	(30) 12.07.90	Esbjerg (Den)
24	Onni **VALAKARI**	(21) 18.08.99	Pafos (Cyp)

FORWARDS

10	Teemu **PUKKI**	(31) 29.03.90	Norwich City (Eng)
20	Joel **POHJANPALO**	(26) 13.09.94	Union Berlin (Ger)
21	Lassi **LAPPALAINEN**	(22) 24.08.98	Montreal (Can)
26	Marcus **FORSS**	(21) 18.06.99	Brentford (Eng)

COACH

Markku **KANERVA**	(57) 24.05.64	

FRANCE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Hugo **LLORIS**	(34) 26.12.86	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
16	Steve **MANDANDA**	(36) 28.03.85	Marseille
23	Mike **MAIGNAN**	(25) 03.07.95	Lille

DEFENDERS

2	Benjamin **PAVARD**	(25) 28.03.96	Bayern Munich (Ger)
3	Presnel **KIMPEMBE**	(25) 13.08.95	Paris Saint-Germain
4	Raphael **VARANE**	(28) 25.04.93	Real Madrid (Spa)
5	Clement **LENGLET**	(25) 17.06.95	Barcelona (Spa)
15	Kurt **ZOUMA**	(26) 27.10.94	Chelsea (Eng)
18	Lucas **DIGNE**	(27) 20.07.93	Everton (Eng)
21	Lucas **HERNANDEZ**	(25) 14.02.96	Bayern Munich (Ger)
24	Leo **DUBOIS**	(26) 14.09.94	Lyon
25	Jules **KOUNDE**	(22) 12.11.98	Sevilla (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

6	Paul **POGBA**	(28) 15.03.93	Manchester United (Eng)
8	Thomas **LEMAR**	(25) 12.11.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
12	Corentin **TOLISSO**	(26) 03.08.94	Bayern Munich (Ger)
13	N'Golo **KANTE**	(30) 29.03.91	Chelsea (Eng)
14	Adrien **RABIOT**	(26) 03.04.95	Juventus (Ita)
17	Moussa **SISSOKO**	(31) 16.08.89	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)

FORWARDS

7	Antoine **GRIEZMANN**	(30) 21.03.91	Barcelona (Spa)
9	Olivier **GIROUD**	(34) 30.09.86	Chelsea (Eng)
10	Kylian **MBAPPE**	(22) 20.12.98	Paris Saint-Germain
11	Ousmane **DEMBELE**	(24) 15.05.97	Barcelona (Spa)
19	Karim **BENZEMA**	(33) 19.12.87	Real Madrid (Spa)
20	Kingsley **COMAN**	(24) 13.06.96	Bayern Munich (Ger)
22	Wissam **BEN YEDDER**	(30) 12.08.90	Monaco
26	Marcus **THURAM**	(23) 06.08.97	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)

COACH

Didier **DESCHAMPS**	(52) 15.10.68	

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Manuel **NEUER**	(35) 27.03.86	Bayern Munich
12	Bernd **LENO**	(29) 04.03.92	Arsenal (Eng)
22	Kevin **TRAPP**	(30) 08.07.90	Eintracht Frankfurt

DEFENDERS

2	Antonio **RUDIGER**	(28) 03.03.93	Chelsea (Eng)
3	Marcel **HALSTENBERG**	(29) 27.09.91	RB Leipzig
4	Matthias **GINTER**	(27) 19.01.94	Borussia Monchengladbach
5	Mats **HUMMELS**	(32) 16.12.88	Borussia Dortmund
15	Niklas **SULE**	(25) 03.09.95	Bayern Munich
16	Lukas **KLOSTERMANN**	(25) 03.06.96	RB Leipzig
20	Robin **GOSENS**	(26) 05.07.94	Atalanta (Ita)
24	Robin **KOCH**	(24) 17.07.96	Leeds United (Eng)
26	Christian **GUNTER**	(28) 28.02.93	Freiburg

MIDFIELDERS

6	Joshua **KIMMICH**	(26) 08.02.95	Bayern Munich
8	Toni **KROOS**	(31) 04.01.90	Real Madrid (Spa)
13	Jonas **HOFMANN**	(28) 14.07.92	Borussia Monchengladbach
14	Jamal **MUSIALA**	(18) 26.02.03	Bayern Munich
17	Florian **NEUHAUS**	(24) 16.03.97	Borussia Monchengladbach
18	Leon **GORETZKA**	(26) 06.02.95	Bayern Munich
21	Ilkay **GUNDOGAN**	(30) 24.10.90	Manchester City (Eng)
23	Emre **CAN**	(27) 12.01.94	Borussia Dortmund

FORWARDS

7	Kai **HAVERTZ**	(22) 11.06.99	Chelsea (Eng)
9	Kevin **VOLLAND**	(28) 30.07.92	Monaco (Fra)
10	Serge **GNABRY**	(25) 14.07.95	Bayern Munich
11	Timo **WERNER**	(25) 06.03.96	Chelsea (Eng)
19	Leroy **SANE**	(25) 11.01.96	Bayern Munich
25	Thomas **MULLER**	(31) 13.09.89	Bayern Munich

COACH

Joachim **LOW**	(61) 03.02.60	

Shock inclusion...Karim Benzema's call-up to the France squad was a major surprise

Goalscorer...Matteo Pessina (a late replacement for Stefano Sensi) celebrates v Wales

HUNGARY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Peter **GULACSI**	(31) 06.05.90	RB Leipzig (Ger)
12	Denes **DIBUSZ**	(30) 16.11.90	Ferencvaros
22	Adam **BOGDAN**	(33) 27.09.87	Ferencvaros

DEFENDERS

2	Adam **LANG**	(28) 17.01.93	Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
3	Akos **KECSKES**	(25) 04.01.96	Lugano (Sui)
4	Attila **SZALAI**	(23) 20.01.98	Fenerbahce (Tur)
5	Attila **FIOLA**	(31) 17.02.90	Fehervar
6	Willi **ORBAN**	(28) 03.11.92	RB Leipzig (Ger)
14	Gergo **LOVRENCSICS**	(32) 01.09.88	Ferencvaros
21	Endre **BOTKA**	(26) 25.08.94	Ferencvaros
26	Bendeguz **BOLLA**	(21) 22.11.99	Fehervar

MIDFIELDERS

7	Loic **NEGO**	(30) 15.01.91	Fehervar
8	Adam **NAGY**	(25) 17.06.95	Bristol City (Eng)
10	Tamas **CSERI**	(33) 15.01.88	Mezokovesd
11	Filip **HOLENDER**	(26) 27.07.94	Partizan Belgrade (Srb)
13	Andras **SCHAFER**	(22) 13.04.99	DAC (Svk)
15	Laszlo **KLEINHEISLER**	(27) 08.04.94	Osijek (Cro)
16	Daniel **GAZDAG**	(25) 02.03.96	Philadelphia Union (USA)
18	David **SIGER**	(30) 30.11.90	Ferencvaros
19	Kevin **VARGA**	(25) 30.03.96	Kasimpasa (Tur)

FORWARDS

9	Adam **SZALAI**	(33) 09.12.87	Mainz (Ger)
17	Roland **VARGA**	(31) 23.01.90	MTK
20	Roland **SALLAI**	(24) 22.05.97	Freiburg (Ger)
23	Nemanja **NIKOLIC**	(33) 31.12.87	Fehervar
24	Szabolcs **SCHON**	(20) 27.09.00	Paks
25	Janos **HAHN**	(21) 22.11.99	FC Dallas (USA)

COACH

Marco **ROSSI** (Ita)	(56) 09.09.64	

ITALY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Salvatore **SIRIGU**	(34) 12.01.87	Torino
21	Gianluigi **DONNARUMMA**	(22) 25.02.99	Milan
26	Alex **MERET**	(24) 22.03.97	Napoli

DEFENDERS

2	Giovanni **DI LORENZO**	(27) 04.08.93	Napoli
3	Giorgio **CHIELLINI**	(36) 14.08.84	Juventus
4	Leonardo **SPINAZZOLA**	(28) 25.03.93	Roma
13	**EMERSON**	(26) 03.08.94	Chelsea (Eng)
15	Francesco **ACERBI**	(33) 10.02.88	Lazio
19	Leonardo **BONUCCI**	(34) 01.05.87	Juventus
23	Alessandro **BASTONI**	(22) 13.04.99	Internazionale
24	Alessandro **FLORENZI**	(30) 11.03.91	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
25	Rafael **TOLOI**	(30) 10.10.90	Atalanta

MIDFIELDERS

5	Manuel **LOCATELLI**	(23) 08.01.98	Sassuolo
6	Marco **VERRATTI**	(28) 05.11.92	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
7	Gaetano **CASTROVILLI**	(24) 17.02.97	Fiorentina
8	**JORGINHO**	(29) 20.12.91	Chelsea (Eng)
12	Matteo **PESSINA**	(24) 21.04.97	Atalanta
16	Bryan **CRISTANTE**	(26) 03.03.95	Roma
18	Nicolo **BARELLA**	(24) 07.02.97	Internazionale

FORWARDS

9	Andrea **BELOTTI**	(27) 20.12.93	Torino
10	Lorenzo **INSIGNE**	(29) 04.06.91	Napoli
11	Domenico **BERARDI**	(26) 01.08.94	Sassuolo
14	Federico **CHIESA**	(23) 25.10.97	Juventus
17	Ciro **IMMOBILE**	(31) 20.02.90	Lazio
20	Federico **BERNARDESCHI**	(27) 16.02.94	Juventus
22	Giacomo **RASPADORI**	(21) 18.02.00	Sassuolo

COACH

Roberto **MANCINI**	(56) 27.11.64	

NETHERLANDS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Maarten **STEKELENBURG**	(38) 22.09.82	Ajax
13	Tim **KRUL**	(33) 03.04.88	Norwich City (Eng)
23	Marco **BIZOT**	(30) 10.03.91	AZ

DEFENDERS

2	Joel **VELTMAN**	(29) 15.01.92	Brighton & Hove Albion (Eng)
3	Matthijs **DE LIGT**	(21) 12.08.99	Juventus (Ita)
4	Nathan **AKE**	(26) 18.02.95	Manchester City (Eng)
5	Owen **WIJNDAL**	(21) 28.11.99	AZ
6	Stefan **DE VRIJ**	(29) 05.02.92	Internazionale (Ita)
12	Patrick **VAN AANHOLT**	(30) 29.08.90	Crystal Palace (Eng)
17	Daley **BLIND**	(31) 09.03.90	Ajax
22	Denzel **DUMFRIES**	(25) 18.04.96	PSV
25	Jurrien **TIMBER**	(19) 17.06.01	Ajax

MIDFIELDERS

8	Georginio **WIJNALDUM**	(30) 11.11.90	Liverpool (Eng)
14	Davy **KLAASSEN**	(28) 21.02.93	Ajax
15	Marten **DE ROON**	(30) 29.03.91	Atalanta (Ita)
16	Ryan **GRAVENBERCH**	(19) 16.05.02	Ajax
20	Donny **VAN DE BEEK**	(24) 18.04.97	Manchester United (Eng)
21	Frenkie **DE JONG**	(24) 12.05.97	Barcelona (Spa)
24	Teun **KOOPMEINERS**	(23) 28.02.98	AZ

FORWARDS

7	Steven **BERGHUIS**	(29) 19.12.91	Feyenoord
9	Luuk **DE JONG**	(30) 27.08.90	Sevilla (Spa)
10	Memphis **DEPAY**	(27) 13.02.94	Lyon (Fra)
11	Quincy **PROMES**	(29) 04.01.92	Spartak Moscow (Rus)
18	Donyell **MALEN**	(22) 19.01.99	PSV
19	Wout **WEGHORST**	(28) 07.08.92	Wolfsburg (Ger)
26	Cody **GAKPO**	(22) 07.05.99	PSV

COACH

Frank **DE BOER**	(51) 15.05.70	

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

NORTH MACEDONIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Stole **DIMITRIEVSKI**	(27) 25.12.93	Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
12	Risto **JANKOV**	(22) 05.09.98	Rabotnicki
22	Damjan **SHISHKOVSKI**	(26) 18.03.95	Doxa (Cyp)
DEFENDERS			
2	Egzon **BEJTULAI**	(27) 07.01.94	Shkendija
3	Gjoko **ZAJKOV**	(26) 10.02.95	Charleroi (Blg)
4	Kire **RISTEVSKI**	(30) 22.10.90	Ujpest (Hun)
6	Visar **MUSLIU**	(26) 13.11.94	Fehervar (Hun)
8	Ezgjan **ALIOSKI**	(29) 12.02.92	Leeds United (Eng)
13	Stefan **RISTOVSKI**	(29) 12.02.92	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
14	Darko **VELKOVSKI**	(25) 21.06.95	Rijeka (Cro)
MIDFIELDERS			
5	Arijan **ADEMI**	(30) 29.05.91	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
11	Ferhan **HASANI**	(30) 18.06.90	Partizani (Alb)
15	Tihomir **KOSTADINOV**	(25) 04.03.96	Ruzomberok (Svk)
16	Boban **NIKOLOV**	(26) 28.07.94	Leece (Ita)
17	Enis **BARHDI**	(25) 02.07.95	Levante (Spa)
20	Stefan **SPIROVSKI**	(30) 23.08.90	AEK Larnaca (Cyp)
21	Eljif **ELMAS**	(21) 24.09.99	Napoli (Ita)
24	Daniel **AVRAMOVSKI**	(26) 20.02.95	Kayserispor (Tur)
25	Darko **CHURLINOV**	(20) 11.07.00	Stuttgart (Ger)
FORWARDS			
7	Ivan **TRICHKOVSKI**	(34) 18.04.87	AEK Larnaca (Cyp)
9	Aleksandar **TRAJKOVSKI**	(28) 05.09.92	Mallorca (Esp)
10	Goran **PANDEV**	(37) 27.07.83	Genoa (Ita)
18	Vlatko **STOJANOVSKI**	(24) 23.04.97	Chambly (Fra)
19	Krste **VELKOSKI**	(33) 20.02.88	Sarajevo (BiH)
23	Marjan **RADESKI**	(26) 10.02.95	Akademija Pandev
26	Milan **RISTOVSKI**	(23) 08.04.98	Spartak Trnava (Svk)
COACH			
Igor **ANGELOVSKI**		(45) 02.06.76	

POLAND

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Wojciech **SZCZESNY**	(31) 18.04.90	Juventus (Ita)
12	Lukasz **SKORUPSKI**	(30) 05.05.91	Bologna (Ita)
22	Lukasz **FABIANSKI**	(36) 18.04.85	West Ham United (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
2	Kamil **PIATKOWSKI**	(20) 21.06.00	Rakow Czestochowa
3	Pawel **DAWIDOWICZ**	(26) 20.05.95	Verona (Ita)
4	Tomasz **KEDZIORA**	(26) 11.06.94	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
5	Jan **BEDNAREK**	(25) 12.04.96	Southampton (Eng)
13	Maciej **RYBUS**	(31) 19.08.89	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
15	Kamil **GLIK**	(33) 03.02.88	Benevento (Ita)
18	Bartosz **BERESZYNSKI**	(28) 12.07.92	Sampdoria (Ita)
25	Michal **HELIK**	(25) 09.09.95	Barnsley (Eng)
26	Tymoteusz **PUCHACZ**	(22) 23.01.99	Lech Poznan
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Kacper **KOZLOWSKI**	(17) 16.10.03	Pogon Szczecin
8	Karol **LINETTY**	(26) 02.02.95	Torino (Ita)
10	Grzegorz **KRYCHOWIAK**	(31) 29.01.90	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
14	Mateusz **KLICH**	(30) 13.06.90	Leeds United (Eng)
16	Jakub **MODER**	(22) 07.04.99	Brighton & Hove Albion (Eng)
17	Przemyslaw **PLACHETA**	(23) 23.03.98	Norwich City (Eng)
19	Przemyslaw **FRANKOWSKI**	(26) 12.04.95	Chicago Fire (USA)
20	Piotr **ZIELINSKI**	(27) 20.05.94	Napoli (Ita)
21	Kamil **JOZWIAK**	(23) 22.04.98	Derby County (Eng)
FORWARDS			
7	Arkadiusz **MILIK**	(27) 28.02.94	Marseille (Fra)
9	Robert **LEWANDOWSKI**	(32) 21.08.88	Bayern Munich (Ger)
11	Karol **SWIDERSKI**	(24) 23.01.97	PAOK (Gre)
23	Dawid **KOWNACKI**	(24) 14.03.97	Fortuna Dusseldorf (Ger)
24	Jakub **SWIERCZOK**	(28) 28.12.92	Piast Gliwice
COACH			
Paulo **SOUSA** (Por)		(50) 30.08.70	

PORTUGAL

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Rui **PATRICIO**	(33) 15.02.88	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
12	Anthony **LOPES**	(30) 01.10.90	Lyon (Fra)
22	Rui **SILVA**	(27) 07.02.94	Granada (Spa)
DEFENDERS			
2	Nelson **SEMEDO**	(27) 16.11.93	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
3	**PEPE**	(38) 26.02.93	Porto
4	Ruben **DIAS**	(24) 14.05.97	Manchester City (Eng)
5	Raphael **GUERREIRO**	(27) 22.12.93	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
6	Jose **FONTE**	(37) 22.12.83	Lille (Fra)
20	Diogo **DALOT**	(22) 18.03.99	Milan (Ita)
25	Nuno **MENDES**	(18) 19.06.02	Sporting
MIDFIELDERS			
8	Joao **MOUTINHO**	(34) 08.09.86	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
10	Bernardo **SILVA**	(26) 10.08.94	Manchester City (Eng)
11	Bruno **FERNANDES**	(26) 08.09.94	Manchester United (Eng)
13	**DANILO**	(29) 09.09.91	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
14	**WILLIAM** Carvalho	(29) 07.04.92	Real Betis (Spa)
16	Renato **SANCHES**	(23) 18.08.97	Lille (Fra)
18	Ruben **NEVES**	(24) 13.03.97	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
19	Pedro **GONCALVES**	(22) 26.06.98	Sporting
24	Sergio **OLIVEIRA**	(29) 02.06.92	Porto
26	Joao **PALHINHA**	(25) 09.07.95	Sporting
FORWARDS			
7	Cristiano **RONALDO**	(36) 05.02.85	Juventus (Ita)
9	Andre **SILVA**	(25) 06.11.95	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
15	Rafa **SILVA**	(28) 17.05.93	Benfica
17	Goncalo **GUEDES**	(24) 29.11.96	Valencia (Spa)
21	Diogo **JOTA**	(24) 04.12.96	Liverpool (Eng)
23	Joao **FELIX**	(21) 10.11.99	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
COACH			
Fernando **SANTOS**		(66) 10.10.54	

Retirement...North Macedonia legend Goran Pandev is given a guard of honour

Positive...Billy Gilmour starring against England before self-isolating due to COVID-19

RUSSIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Anton **SHUNIN**	(34) 27.01.87	Dynamo Moscow
12	Yuri **DYUPIN**	(33) 17.03.88	Rubin Kazan
16	Matvei **SAFONOV**	(22) 25.02.99	Krasnodar
DEFENDERS			
2	Mario **FERNANDES**	(30) 19.09.90	CSKA Moscow
3	Igor **DIVEYEV**	(21) 27.09.99	CSKA Moscow
4	Vyacheslav **KARAVAYEV**	(26) 20.05.95	Zenit St Petersburg
5	Andrei **SEMYONOV**	(32) 24.03.89	Akhmat Grozny
13	Fyodor **KUDRYASHOV**	(34) 05.04.87	Antalyaspor (Tur)
14	Georgi **DZHIKIYA**	(27) 21.11.93	Spartak Moscow
18	Yuri **ZHIRKOV**	(37) 20.08.83	Zenit St Petersburg
24	Roman **YEVGENYEV**	(23) 05.11.97	Dynamo Moscow
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Denis **CHERYSHEV**	(30) 26.12.90	Valencia (Spa)
7	Magomed **OZDOYEV**	(28) 05.11.92	Zenit St Petersburg
8	Dmitri **BARINOV**	(24) 11.09.96	Lokomotiv Moscow
11	Roman **ZOBNIN**	(27) 11.02.94	Spartak Moscow
15	Aleksei **MIRANCHUK**	(25) 17.10.95	Atalanta (Ita)
17	Aleksandr **GOLOVIN**	(25) 30.05.96	Monaco (Fra)
19	Rifat **ZHEMALETDINOV**	(24) 20.09.96	Lokomotiv Moscow
20	Aleksei **IONOV**	(32) 18.02.89	Krasnodar
21	Daniil **FOMIN**	(24) 02.03.97	Dynamo Moscow
23	Daler **KUZYAEV**	(28) 15.01.93	Zenit St Petersburg
25	Denis **MAKAROV**	(23) 18.02.98	Rubin Kazan
26	Maksim **MUKHIN**	(19) 04.11.01	CSKA Moscow
FORWARDS			
9	Aleksandr **SOBOLEV**	(24) 07.03.97	Spartak Moscow
10	Anton **ZABOLOTNY**	(29) 13.06.91	CSKA Moscow
22	Artem **DZYUBA**	(32) 22.08.88	Zenit St Petersburg
COACH			
Stanislav **CHERCHESOV**		(57) 02.09.63	

SCOTLAND

GOALKEEPERS			
1	David **MARSHALL**	(36) 05.03.85	Derby County (Eng)
12	Craig **GORDON**	(38) 31.12.82	Hearts
21	Jon **MCLAUGHLIN**	(33) 09.09.87	Rangers
DEFENDERS			
2	Stephen **O'DONNELL**	(29) 11.05.92	Motherwell
3	Andy **ROBERTSON**	(27) 11.03.94	Liverpool (Eng)
5	Grant **HANLEY**	(29) 20.11.91	Norwich City (Eng)
6	Kieran **TIERNEY**	(23) 05.06.97	Arsenal (Eng)
13	Greg **TAYLOR**	(23) 05.11.97	Celtic
15	Declan **GALLAGHER**	(30) 13.02.91	Motherwell
16	Liam **COOPER**	(29) 30.08.91	Leeds United (Eng)
22	Nathan **PATTERSON**	(19) 16.10.01	Rangers
24	Jack **HENDRY**	(26) 07.05.95	Oostende (Blg)
26	Scott **MCKENNA**	(24) 12.11.96	Nottingham Forest (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
4	Scott **MCTOMINAY**	(24) 08.12.96	Manchester United (Eng)
7	John **MCGINN**	(26) 18.10.94	Aston Villa (Eng)
8	Callum **MCGREGOR**	(27) 14.06.93	Celtic
11	Ryan **CHRISTIE**	(26) 22.02.95	Celtic
14	John **FLECK**	(29) 24.08.91	Sheffield United (Eng)
17	Stuart **ARMSTRONG**	(29) 30.03.92	Southampton (Eng)
18	David **TURNBULL**	(21) 10.07.99	Celtic
20	Ryan **FRASER**	(27) 24.02.94	Newcastle United (Eng)
23	Billy **GILMOUR**	(20) 11.06.01	Chelsea (Eng)
25	James **FORREST**	(29) 07.07.91	Celtic
FORWARDS			
9	Lyndon **DYKES**	(25) 07.10.95	Queens Park Rangers (Eng)
10	Che **ADAMS**	(24) 13.07.96	Southampton (Eng)
19	Kevin **NISBET**	(24) 08.03.97	Hibernian
COACH			
Steve **CLARKE**		(57) 29.08.63	

SLOVAKIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Martin **DUBRAVKA**	(32) 15.01.89	Newcastle United (Eng)
12	Dusan **KUCIAK**	(36) 21.05.85	Lechia Gdansk (Pol)
23	Marek **RODAK**	(24) 13.12.96	Fulham (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
2	Peter **PEKARIK**	(34) 30.10.86	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
3	Denis **VAVRO**	(25) 10.04.96	Huesca (Spa)
4	Martin **VALJENT**	(25) 11.12.95	Mallorca (Spa)
5	Lubomir **SATKA**	(25) 02.12.95	Lech Poznan (Pol)
14	Milan **SKRINIAR**	(26) 11.02.95	Internazionale (Ita)
15	Tomas **HUBOCAN**	(35) 17.09.85	Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
16	David **HANCKO**	(23) 13.12.97	Sparta Prague (Cze)
24	Martin **KOSCELNIK**	(26) 02.03.95	Slovan Liberec (Cze)
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Jan **GREGUS**	(30) 29.01.91	Minnesota United (USA)
7	Vladimir **WEISS**	(31) 30.11.89	Slovan Bratislava
10	Tomas **SUSLOV**	(18) 07.06.02	Groningen (Ned)
11	Laszlo **BENES**	(23) 09.09.97	Augsburg (Ger)
13	Patrik **HROSOVSKY**	(29) 22.04.92	Genk (Blg)
17	Marek **HAMSIK**	(33) 27.07.87	Gothenburg (Swe)
18	Lukas **HARASLIN**	(25) 26.05.96	Sassuolo (Ita)
19	Juraj **KUCKA**	(34) 26.02.87	Parma (Ita)
20	Robert **MAK**	(30) 08.03.91	Ferencvaros (Hun)
22	Stanislav **LOBOTKA**	(26) 25.11.94	Napoli (Ita)
25	Jakub **HROMADA**	(25) 25.05.96	Slavia Prague (Cze)
FORWARDS			
8	Ondrej **DUDA**	(26) 05.12.94	Cologne (Ger)
9	Robert **BOZENIK**	(21) 18.11.99	Feyenoord (Ned)
21	Michal **DURIS**	(33) 01.06.88	Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
26	Ivan **SCHRANZ**	(27) 13.09.93	Jablonec (Cze)
COACH			
Stefan **TARKOVIC**		(48) 18.02.73	

SPAIN

GOALKEEPERS			
1	David **DE GEA**	(30) 07.11.90	Manchester United (Eng)
13	Robert **SANCHEZ**	(23) 18.11.97	Brighton & Hove Albion (Eng)
23	Unai **SIMON**	(23) 11.06.97	Athletic Bilbao
DEFENDERS			
2	Cesar **AZPILICUETA**	(31) 24.08.89	Chelsea (Eng)
3	Diego **LLORENTE**	(27) 16.08.93	Leeds United (Eng)
4	Pau **TORRES**	(24) 16.01.97	Villarreal
12	Eric **GARCIA**	(20) 09.01.01	Manchester City (Eng)
14	Jose **GAYA**	(26) 25.05.95	Valencia
18	Jordi **ALBA**	(32) 21.03.89	Barcelona
24	Aymeric **LAPORTE**	(27) 27.05.94	Manchester City (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
5	Sergio **BUSQUETS**	(32) 16.07.88	Barcelona
6	Marcos **LLORENTE**	(26) 30.01.95	Atletico Madrid
8	**KOKE**	(29) 08.01.92	Atletico Madrid
10	**THIAGO**	(30) 11.04.91	Liverpool (Eng)
16	**RODRI**	(24) 22.06.96	Manchester City (Eng)
17	**FABIAN** Ruiz	(25) 03.04.96	Napoli (Ita)
26	**PEDRI**	(18) 25.11.02	Barcelona
FORWARDS			
7	Alvaro **MORATA**	(28) 23.10.92	Juventus (Ita)
9	Gerard **MORENO**	(29) 07.04.92	Villarreal
11	Ferran **TORRES**	(21) 29.02.00	Manchester City (Eng)
19	Dani **OLMO**	(23) 07.05.98	RB Leipzig (Ger)
20	Adama **TRAORE**	(25) 25.01.96	Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
21	Mikel **OYARZABAL**	(24) 21.04.97	Real Sociedad
22	Pablo **SARABIA**	(29) 11.05.92	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
COACH			
	Luis **ENRIQUE**	(51) 08.05.70	

SWEDEN

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Robin **OLSEN**	(31) 08.01.90	Everton (Eng)
12	Karl-Johan **JOHNSSON**	(31) 28.01.90	Copenhagen (Den)
23	Kristoffer **NORDFELDT**	(31) 23.06.89	Genclerbirligi (Tur)
DEFENDERS			
2	Mikael **LUSTIG**	(34) 13.12.86	AIK
3	Victor **LINDELOF**	(26) 17.07.94	Manchester United (Eng)
4	Andreas **GRANQVIST**	(36) 16.04.85	Helsingborg
5	Pierre **BENGTSSON**	(33) 12.04.88	Vejle (Den)
6	Ludwig **AUGUSTINSSON**	(27) 21.04.94	Werder Bremen (Ger)
14	Filip **HELANDER**	(28) 22.04.93	Rangers (Sco)
16	Emil **KRAFTH**	(26) 02.08.94	Newcastle United (Eng)
18	Pontus **JANSSON**	(30) 13.02.91	Brentford (Eng)
24	Marcus **DANIELSON**	(32) 08.04.89	Dalian Pro (Chn)
MIDFIELDERS			
7	Sebastian **LARSSON**	(35) 06.06.85	AIK
8	Albin **EKDAL**	(31) 28.07.89	Sampdoria (Ita)
10	Emil **FORSBERG**	(29) 23.10.91	RB Leipzig (Ger)
13	Gustav **SVENSSON**	(34) 07.02.87	Guangzhou City (Chn)
15	Ken **SEMA**	(27) 30.09.93	Watford (Eng)
17	Viktor **CLAESSON**	(29) 02.01.92	Krasnodar (Rus)
19	Mattias **SVANBERG**	(22) 05.01.99	Bologna (Ita)
20	Kristoffer **OLSSON**	(25) 30.06.95	Krasnodar (Rus)
21	Dejan **KULUSEVSKI**	(21) 25.04.00	Juventus (Ita)
26	Jens-Lys **CAJUSTE**	(21) 10.08.99	Midtjylland (Den)
FORWARDS			
9	Marcus **BERG**	(34) 17.08.86	Krasnodar (Rus)
11	Alexander **ISAK**	(21) 21.09.99	Real Sociedad (Spa)
22	Robin **QUAISON**	(27) 09.10.93	Mainz (Ger)
25	Jordan **LARSSON**	(23) 20.06.97	Spartak Moscow (Rus)
COACH			
	Janne **ANDERSSON**	(58) 29.09.62	

SWITZERLAND

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Yann **SOMMER**	(32) 17.12.88	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
12	Yvon **MVOGO**	(27) 06.06.94	PSV (Ned)
21	Gregor **KOBEL**	(23) 06.12.97	Stuttgart (Ger)
DEFENDERS			
2	Kevin **MBABU**	(26) 19.04.95	Wolfsburg (Ger)
3	Silvan **WIDMER**	(28) 05.03.93	Basel
4	Nico **ELVEDI**	(24) 30.09.96	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
5	Manuel **AKANJI**	(25) 19.07.95	Borrusia Dortmund (Ger)
13	Ricardo **RODRIGUEZ**	(28) 25.08.92	Torino (Ita)
17	Loris **BENITO**	(29) 07.01.92	Bordeaux (Fra)
22	Fabian **SCHAR**	(29) 20.12.91	Newcastle United (Eng)
24	Becir **OMERAGIC**	(19) 20.01.02	Zurich
25	Eray **COMERT**	(23) 04.02.98	Basel
26	Jordan **LOTOMBA**	(22) 29.09.98	Nice (Fra)
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Denis **ZAKARIA**	(24) 20.11.96	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
8	Remo **FREULER**	(29) 15.04.92	Atalanta (Ita)
10	Granit **XHAKA**	(28) 27.09.92	Arsenal (Eng)
11	Ruben **VARGAS**	(22) 05.08.98	Augsburg (Ger)
14	Steven **KUBER**	(29) 17.08.91	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
15	Djibril **SOW**	(24) 06.02.97	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
16	Christian **FASSNACHT**	(27) 11.11.93	Young Boys
20	Edimilson **FERNANDES**	(25) 15.04.96	Mainz (Ger)
23	Xherdan **SHAQIRI**	(29) 10.10.91	Liverpool (Eng)
FORWARDS			
7	Breel **EMBOLO**	(24) 14.02.97	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)
9	Haris **SEFEROVIC**	(29) 22.02.92	Benfica (Por)
18	Admir **MEHMEDI**	(30) 16.03.91	Wolfsburg (Ger)
19	Mario **GAVRANOVIC**	(31) 24.11.89	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
COACH			
	Vladimir **PETKOVIC** (BiH)	(57) 15.08.63	

International switch...defender Aymeric Laporte changed allegiance from France to Spain

Dragons delight...Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey starring in his second Euros in a row

TURKEY

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Mert **GUNOK**	(32) 01.03.89	Istanbul Basaksehir
12	Altay **BAYINDIR**	(23) 14.04.98	Fenerbahce
23	Ugurcan **CAKIR**	(25) 05.04.96	Trabzonspor
DEFENDERS			
2	Zeki **CELIK**	(24) 17.02.97	Lille (Fra)
3	Merih **DEMIRAL**	(23) 05.03.98	Juventus (Ita)
4	Caglar **SOYUNCU**	(25) 23.05.96	Leicester City (Eng)
13	Umut **MERAS**	(25) 20.12.95	Le Havre (Fra)
15	Ozan **KABAK**	(21) 05.03.00	Schalke (Ger)
18	Ridvan **YILMAZ**	(20) 21.05.01	Besiktas
22	Kaan **AYHAN**	(26) 10.11.94	Sassuolo (Ita)
25	Mert **MULDUR**	(22) 03.04.99	Sassuolo (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS			
5	Okay **YOKUSLU**	(27) 09.03.94	West Bromwich Albion (Eng)
6	Ozan **TUFAN**	(26) 23.03.95	Fenerbahce
7	Cengiz **UNDER**	(23) 14.07.97	Leicester City (Eng)
8	Dorukhan **TOKOZ**	(25) 21.05.96	Besiktas
10	Hakan **CALHANOGLU**	(27) 08.02.94	Milan (Ita)
11	Yusuf **YAZICI**	(24) 29.01.97	Lille (Fra)
14	Taylan **ANTALYALI**	(26) 08.01.95	Galatasaray
19	Orkun **KOKCU**	(20) 29.12.00	Feyenoord (Ned)
20	Abdulkadir **OMUR**	(21) 25.06.99	Trabzonspor
21	Irfan **KAHVECI**	(25) 15.07.95	Fenerbahce
FORWARDS			
9	Kenan **KARAMAN**	(27) 05.03.94	Fortuna Dusseldorf (Ger)
16	Enes **UNAL**	(24) 10.05.97	Getafe (Spa)
17	Burak **YILMAZ**	(35) 15.07.85	Lille (Fra)
24	Kerem **AKTURKOGLU**	(22) 21.10.98	Galatasaray
26	Halil **DERVISOGLU**	(21) 08.12.99	Galatasaray
COACH			
	Senol **GUNES**	(69) 01.06.52	

UKRAINE

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Heorhiy **BUSHCHAN**	(27) 31.05.94	Dynamo Kiev
12	Andriy **PYATOV**	(36) 28.06.84	Shakhtar Donetsk
23	Anatoliy **TRUBIN**	(19) 01.08.01	Shakhtar Donetsk
DEFENDERS			
2	Eduard **SOBOL**	(26) 20.04.95	Club Brugge (Blg)
4	Serhiy **KRYVTSOV**	(30) 15.03.91	Shakhtar Donetsk
13	Illia **ZABARNYI**	(18) 01.09.02	Dynamo Kiev
16	Vitaliy **MYKOLENKO**	(22) 29.05.99	Dynamo Kiev
21	Oleksandr **KARAVAYEV**	(29) 02.06.92	Dynamo Kiev
22	Mykola **MATVIYENKO**	(25) 02.05.96	Shakhtar Donetsk
24	Oleksandr **TYMCHYK**	(24) 20.01.97	Dynamo Kiev
25	Denys **POPOV**	(22) 17.02.99	Dynamo Kiev
MIDFIELDERS			
3	Heorhiy **SUDAKOV**	(18) 01.09.02	Shakhtar Donetsk
5	Serhiy **SYDORCHUK**	(30) 02.05.91	Dynamo Kiev
6	Taras **STEPANENKO**	(31) 08.08.89	Shakhtar Donetsk
8	Ruslan **MALINOVSKYI**	(28) 04.05.93	Atalanta (Ita)
10	Mykola **SHAPARENKO**	(22) 04.10.98	Dynamo Kiev
11	**MARLOS**	(33) 07.06.88	Shakhtar Donetsk
14	Yevhen **MAKARENKO**	(30) 21.05.91	Kortrijk (Blg)
15	Viktor **TSYHANKOV**	(23) 15.11.97	Dynamo Kiev
17	Oleksandr **ZINCHENKO**	(24) 15.12.96	Manchester City (Eng)
18	Roman **BEZUS**	(30) 26.09.90	Gent (Blg)
FORWARDS			
7	Andriy **YARMOLENKO**	(31) 23.10.89	West Ham United (Eng)
9	Roman **YAREMCHUK**	(25) 27.11.95	Gent (Blg)
19	Artem **BESYEDIN**	(25) 31.03.96	Dynamo Kiev
20	Oleksandr **ZUBKOV**	(24) 03.08.96	Ferencvaros (Hun)
26	Artem **DOVBYK**	(23) 21.06.97	Dnipro-1
COACH			
	Andriy **SHEVCHENKO**	(44) 29.09.76	

WALES

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Wayne **HENNESSEY**	(34) 24.01.87	Crystal Palace (Eng)
12	Danny **WARD**	(27) 22.06.93	Leicester City (Eng)
21	Adam **DAVIES**	(28) 17.07.92	Stoke City (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
2	Chris **GUNTER**	(31) 21.07.89	Charlton Athletic (Eng)
3	Neco **WILLIAMS**	(20) 13.04.01	Liverpool (Eng)
4	Ben **DAVIES**	(28) 24.04.93	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
5	Tom **LOCKYER**	(26) 03.12.94	Luton Town (Eng)
6	Joe **RODON**	(23) 22.10.97	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
14	Connor **ROBERTS**	(25) 23.09.95	Swansea City
17	Rhys **NORRINGTON-DAVIES**	(22) 22.04.99	Sheffield United (Eng)
22	Chris **MEPHAM**	(23) 05.11.97	Bournemouth (Eng)
24	Ben **CABANGO**	(21) 30.05.00	Swansea City
MIDFIELDERS			
7	Joe **ALLEN**	(31) 14.03.90	Stoke City (Eng)
8	Harry **WILSON**	(24) 22.03.97	Cardiff City
10	Aaron **RAMSEY**	(30) 26.12.90	Juventus (Ita)
15	Ethan **AMPADU**	(20) 14.09.00	Sheffield United (Eng)
16	Joe **MORRELL**	(24) 03.01.97	Luton Town (Eng)
18	Jonny **WILLIAMS**	(27) 09.10.93	Cardiff City
19	David **BROOKS**	(23) 08.07.97	Bournemouth (Eng)
23	Dylan **LEVITT**	(20) 17.11.00	Istra 1961 (Cro)
25	Rubin **COLWILL**	(19) 27.04.02	Cardiff City
26	Matthew **SMITH**	(21) 22.11.99	Doncaster Rovers (Eng)
FORWARDS			
9	Tyler **ROBERTS**	(22) 12.01.99	Leeds United (Eng)
11	Gareth **BALE**	(31) 16.07.89	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
13	Kieffer **MOORE**	(28) 08.08.92	Cardiff City
20	Daniel **JAMES**	(23) 10.11.97	Manchester United (Eng)
COACH			
	Rob **PAGE**	(46) 03.09.74	

(ages as of 11.06.21)

COPA AMERICA 2021

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Franco **ARMANI**	(34) 16.10.86	River Plate
12 Agustin **MARCHESIN**	(33) 16.03.88	Porto (Por)
23 Emiliano **MARTINEZ**	(28) 02.09.92	Aston Villa (Eng)
28 Juan **MUSSO**	(27) 06.05.94	Udinese (Ita)
DEFENDERS		
2 Lucas Martinez **QUARTA**	(25) 10.05.96	Fiorentina (Ita)
3 Nicolas **TAGLIAFICO**	(28) 31.08.92	Ajax (Ned)
4 Gonzalo **MONTIEL**	(24) 01.01.97	River Plate
6 German **PEZZELLA**	(29) 27.06.91	Fiorentina (Ita)
8 Marcos **ACUNA**	(29) 28.10.91	Sevilla (Spa)
13 Cristian **ROMERO**	(23) 27.04.98	Atalanta (Ita)
19 Nicolas **OTAMENDI**	(33) 12.02.88	Benfica (Por)
25 Lisandro **MARTINEZ**	(23) 18.01.98	Ajax (Ned)
26 Nahuel **MOLINA**	(23) 06.04.98	Udinese (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Leandro **PAREDES**	(26) 29.06.94	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
7 Rodrigo **DE PAUL**	(27) 24.05.94	Udinese (Ita)
11 Angel **DI MARIA**	(33) 14.02.88	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
14 Exequiel **PALACIOS**	(22) 05.10.98	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
17 Nicolas **DOMINGUEZ**	(22) 28.06.98	Bologna (Ita)
18 Guido **RODRIGUEZ**	(27) 12.04.94	Real Betis (Spa)
20 Giovani **LO CELSO**	(25) 09.04.96	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
FORWARDS		
9 Sergio **AGUERO**	(33) 02.06.88	Barcelona (Spa)
10 Lionel **MESSI**	(33) 24.06.87	Barcelona (Spa)
15 Nicolas **GONZALEZ**	(23) 06.04.98	Stuttgart (Ger)
16 Joaquin **CORREA**	(26) 13.08.94	Lazio (Ita)
21 Angel **CORREA**	(26) 09.03.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
22 Lautaro **MARTINEZ**	(23) 22.08.97	Internazionale (Ita)
24 Papu **GOMEZ**	(33) 15.02.88	Sevilla (Spa)
27 Julian **ALVAREZ**	(21) 31.01.00	River Plate
COACH		
Lionel **SCALONI**	(43) 16.05.78	

BOLIVIA

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Carlos **LAMPE**	(34) 17.03.87	Always Ready
16 Ruben **CORDANO**	(22) 16.10.98	Bolivar
23 Javier **ROJAS**	(25) 14.01.96	Bolivar
DEFENDERS		
2 Jairo **QUINTEROS**	(20) 07.02.01	Bolivar
3 Jose **SAGREDO**	(27) 10.03.94	The Strongest
4 Luis **HAQUIN**	(23) 15.11.97	Melipilla (Chi)
5 Adrian **JUSINO**	(28) 09.07.92	AEL (Gre)
8 Diego **BEJARANO**	(29) 24.08.91	Bolivar
19 Enrique **FLORES**	(27) 01.02.94	Always Ready
26 Luis Rene **BARBOZA**	(28) 03.04.93	Aurora
27 Oscar **RIBERA**	(29) 10.02.92	Blooming
MIDFIELDERS		
6 Leonel **JUSTINIANO**	(28) 02.07.92	Bolivar
7 Juan Carlos **ARCE**	(36) 10.04.85	Always Ready
13 Diego **WAYAR**	(27) 15.10.93	The Strongest
14 Moises **VILLARROEL**	(22) 07.09.98	Jorge Wilstermann
15 Boris **CESPEDES**	(25) 19.06.95	Servette (Sui)
16 Erwin **SAAVEDRA**	(25) 22.02.96	Bolivar
17 Roberto **FERNANDEZ**	(21) 12.07.99	Bolivar
20 Ramiro **VACA**	(21) 01.07.99	The Strongest
21 Erwin **SANCHEZ**	(28) 23.07.92	Blooming
22 Danny **BEJARANO**	(27) 03.01.27	Lamia (Gre)
FORWARDS		
9 Marcelo **MARTINS**	(33) 18.06.87	Cruzeiro (Bra)
10 Henry **VACA**	(23) 27.01.98	Oriente Petrolero
11 Rodrigo **RAMALLO**	(30) 14.10.90	Always Ready
18 Gilbert **ALVAREZ**	(28) 04.07.92	Jorge Wilstermann
24 Jaume **CUELLAR**	(19) 23.08.01	SPAL (Ita)
25 Jeyson **CHURA**	(19) 03.02.02	The Strongest
COACH		
Cesar **FARIAS** (Ven)	(48) 07.03.73	

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS		
1 **ALISSON**	(28) 02.10.92	Liverpool (Eng)
12 **WEVERTON**	(33) 13.12.87	Palmeiras
23 **EDERSON**	(27) 17.08.93	Manchester City (Eng)
DEFENDERS		
2 **DANILO**	(29) 15.07.91	Juventus (Ita)
3 **THIAGO SILVA**	(36) 22.09.84	Chelsea (Eng)
4 **MARQUINHOS**	(27) 14.05.94	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
6 **ALEX SANDRO**	(30) 26.01.91	Juventus (Ita)
13 **EMERSON**	(22) 14.01.99	Real Betis (Spa)
14 Eder **MILITAO**	(23) 18.01.98	Real Madrid (Spa)
16 Renan **LODI**	(23) 08.04.98	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
22 **FELIPE**	(32) 16.05.89	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
MIDFIELDERS		
5 **CASEMIRO**	(29) 23.02.92	Real Madrid (Spa)
8 **FRED**	(28) 05.03.93	Manchester United (Eng)
11 **EVERTON RIBEIRO**	(32) 10.04.89	Flamengo
15 **FABINHO**	(27) 23.10.93	Liverpool (Eng)
17 Lucas **PAQUETA**	(23) 27.08.97	Lyon (Fra)
25 **DOUGLAS LUIZ**	(23) 09.05.98	Aston Villa (Eng)
FORWARDS		
7 **RICHARLISON**	(24) 10.05.97	Everton (Eng)
9 **GABRIEL JESUS**	(24) 03.04.97	Manchester City (Eng)
10 **NEYMAR**	(29) 05.02.92	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
18 **VINICIUS JUNIOR**	(20) 12.07.00	Real Madrid (Spa)
19 **EVERTON**	(25) 22.03.96	Benfica (Por)
20 Roberto **FIRMINO**	(29) 02.10.91	Liverpool (Eng)
21 **GABRIEL BARBOSA**	(24) 30.08.96	Flamengo
COACH		
TITE	(60) 25.05.61	

CHILE

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Claudio **BRAVO**	(38) 13.04.83	Real Betis (Spa)
12 Gabriel **ARIAS**	(33) 13.09.87	Racing (Arg)
23 Gabriel **CASTELLON**	(27) 08.09.93	Huachipato
DEFENDERS		
2 Eugenio **MENA**	(32) 18.07.88	Racing (Arg)
3 Guillermo **MARIPAN**	(27) 06.05.94	Monaco (Fra)
4 Mauricio **ISLA**	(33) 12.06.88	Flamengo (Bra)
5 Enzo **ROCO**	(28) 16.08.92	Fatih Karagumruk (Tur)
6 Francisco **SIERRALTA**	(24) 06.05.97	Watford (Eng)
15 Daniel **GONZALEZ**	(19) 20.02.02	Santiago Wanderers
17 Gary **MEDEL**	(33) 03.08.87	Bologna (Ita)
18 Sebastian **VEGAS**	(24) 04.12.96	Monterrey (Mex)
MIDFIELDERS		
7 Cesar **PINARES**	(30) 23.05.91	Gremio (Bra)
8 Arturo **VIDAL**	(34) 22.05.87	Internazionale (Ita)
13 Erick **PULGAR**	(27) 15.01.94	Fiorentina (Ita)
14 Pablo **GALDAMES**	(24) 30.12.96	Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
19 Tomas **ALARCON**	(22) 19.01.99	O'Higgins
20 Charles **ARANGUIZ**	(32) 17.04.89	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
25 Marcelino **NUNEZ**	(21) 01.03.00	Universidad Catolica
27 Pablo **ARANGUIZ**	(24) 17.03.97	Universidad Catolica
28 Claudio **BAEZA**	(27) 23.12.93	Toluca (Mex)
FORWARDS		
9 Jean **MENESES**	(28) 16.03.93	Leon (Mex)
10 Alexis **SANCHEZ**	(32) 19.12.88	Internazionale (Ita)
11 Eduardo **VARGAS**	(31) 20.11.89	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
16 Felipe **MORA**	(27) 02.08.93	Portland Timbers (USA)
21 Carlos **PALACIOS**	(20) 20.07.00	Internacional (Bra)
22 Ben **BRERETON**	(22) 18.04.99	Blackburn Rovers (Eng)
24 Luciano **ARRIAGADA**	(19) 20.04.02	Colo-Colo
26 Clemente **MONTES**	(20) 25.04.01	Universidad Catolica
COACH		
Martin **LASARTE** (Uru)	(60) 20.03.61	

Debutant...Brereton made his first appearance for Chile against Argentina and scored his first goal versus Bolivia

COLOMBIA

GOALKEEPERS		
1 David **OSPINA**	(32) 31.08.88	Napoli (Ita)
12 Camilo **VARGAS**	(32) 09.03.89	Atlas (Mex)
22 Aldair **QUINTANA**	(26) 11.07.94	Atletico Nacional
DEFENDERS		
2 Stefan **MEDINA**	(28) 14.06.92	Monterrey (Mex)
3 Oscar **MURILLO**	(33) 18.04.88	Pachuca (Mex)
4 Carlos **CUESTA**	(22) 09.03.99	Genk (Blg)
6 William **TESILLO**	(31) 02.02.90	Leon (Mex)
13 Yerry **MINA**	(26) 23.09.94	Everton (Eng)
16 Daniel **MUNOZ**	(25) 25.05.96	Genk (Blg)
23 Davinson **SANCHEZ**	(25) 12.06.96	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
24 Jhon **LUCUMI**	(22) 26.06.98	Genk (Blg)
26 Frank **FABRA**	(30) 22.02.91	Boca Juniors (Arg)
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Wilmar **BARRIOS**	(27) 16.10.93	Zenit St Petersburg (Rus)
8 Gustavo **CUELLAR**	(28) 14.10.92	Al-Hilal (Ksa)
10 Edwin **CARDONA**	(28) 08.12.92	Boca Juniors (Arg)
11 Juan **CUADRADO**	(33) 26.05.88	Juventus (Ita)
15 Mateus **URIBE**	(30) 21.03.91	Porto (Por)
17 Yairo **MORENO**	(26) 04.04.95	Leon (Mex)
21 Sebastian **PEREZ**	(28) 29.03.93	Boavista (Por)
25 Baldomero **PERLAZA**	(28) 25.06.92	Atletico Nacional
27 Leandro **CAMPAZ**	(21) 24.05.00	Deportes Tolima
FORWARDS		
7 Duvan **ZAPATA**	(30) 01.04.91	Atalanta (Ita)
9 Luis **MURIEL**	(30) 16.04.91	Atalanta (Ita)
14 Luis **DIAZ**	(24) 13.01.97	Porto (Por)
18 Rafael **SANTOS BORRE**	(25) 15.09.95	River Plate (Arg)
19 Miguel **BORJA**	(28) 26.01.93	Junior
20 Alfredo **MORELOS**	(24) 21.06.96	Rangers (Sco)
28 Yimmi **CHARA**	(30) 02.04.91	Portland Timbers (USA)
COACH		
Reinaldo **RUEDA**	(64) 16.04.57	

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Hernan **GALINDEZ**	(34) 30.03.87	Universidad Catolica
12 Pedro **ORTIZ**	(31) 19.02.90	Emelec
22 Alexander **DOMINGUEZ**	(34) 05.06.87	Velez Sarsfield
DEFENDERS		
2 Felix **TORRES**	(24) 11.01.97	Santos Laguna (Mex)
3 Piero **HINCAPIE**	(19) 09.01.02	Talleres (Arg)
4 Robert **ARBOLEDA**	(29) 22.10.91	Sao Paulo (Bra)
7 Pervis **ESTUPINAN**	(23) 21.01.98	Villarreal (Spa)
14 Xavier **ARREAGA**	(26) 28.09.94	Seattle Sounders (USA)
16 Mario **PINEIDA**	(28) 06.07.92	Barcelona
17 Angelo **PRECIADO**	(23) 18.02.98	Genk (Blg)
24 Luis **LEON**	(28) 11.04.93	Barcelona
27 Diego **PALACIOS**	(21) 12.07.99	Los Angeles (USA)
28 Jose Andres **HURTADO**	(19) 23.12.01	Independiente del Valle
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Dixon **ARROYO**	(29) 01.06.92	Emelec
6 Christian **NOBOA**	(36) 09.04.85	Sochi (Rus)
8 Fidel **MARTINEZ**	(31) 15.02.90	Tijuana (Mex)
10 Damian **DIAZ**	(35) 01.05.86	Barcelona
18 Ayrton **PRECIADO**	(26) 17.07.94	Santos Laguna (Mex)
19 Gonzalo **PLATA**	(21) 11.01.00	Sporting (Por)
20 Jhegson **MENDEZ**	(24) 26.04.97	Orlando City (USA)
21 Alan **FRANCO**	(22) 21.08.98	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
23 Moises **CAICEDO**	(19) 02.11.01	Brighton & Hove Albion (Eng)
25 Jose **CARABALI**	(24) 19.05.97	Universidad Catolica
FORWARDS		
9 Leonardo **CAMPANA**	(20) 24.07.00	Famalicao (Por)
11 Michael **ESTRADA**	(25) 07.04.96	Toluca (Mex)
13 Enner **VALENCIA**	(31) 04.11.89	Fenerbahce (Tur)
15 Angel **MENA**	(33) 21.01.88	Leon (Mex)
26 Jordy **CAICEDO**	(23) 18.11.97	CSKA Sofia (Bul)
COACH		
Gustavo **ALFARO** (Arg)	(58) 14.08.62	

Youngster...Ecuador's Moises Caicedo

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Antony **SILVA**	(37) 27.02.84	Puebla (Mex)
12 Alfredo **AGUILAR**	(32) 18.07.88	Olimpia
22 Gerardo **ORTIZ**	(32) 25.03.89	Once Caldas (Col)
DEFENDERS		
2 Robert **ROJAS**	(25) 30.04.96	River Plate (Arg)
3 Omar **ALDERETE**	(24) 26.12.96	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
4 Fabian **BALBUENA**	(29) 23.08.91	West Ham United (Eng)
6 Junior **ALONSO**	(28) 09.02.93	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
13 Alberto **ESPINOLA**	(30) 08.02.91	Cerro Porteno
15 Gustavo **GOMEZ**	(28) 06.05.93	Palmeiras (Bra)
19 Santiago **ARZAMENDIA**	(23) 05.05.98	Cerro Porteno
24 David **MARTINEZ**	(23) 21.01.98	River Plate (Arg)
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Gaston **GIMENEZ**	(29) 27.07.91	Chicago Fire (USA)
8 Richard **SANCHEZ**	(25) 29.03.96	America (Mex)
10 Miguel **ALMIRON**	(27) 10.02.94	Newcastle United (Eng)
14 Andres **CUBAS**	(25) 22.05.96	Nimes (Fra)
16 Angel **CARDOZO**	(26) 19.10.94	Cerro Porteno
17 Alejandro Romero **GAMARRA**	(26) 11.01.95	Al-Taawoun (Ksa)
21 Oscar **ROMERO**	(28) 04.07.92	San Lorenzo (Arg)
23 Mathias **VILLASANTI**	(24) 24.01.97	Cerro Porteno
25 Braian **OJEDA**	(20) 27.06.00	Olimpia
26 Robert Piris **DA MOTTA**	(26) 26.07.94	Genclerbirligi (Tur)
27 Jorge **MEREL**	(23) 22.01.98	Guarani
FORWARDS		
7 Carlos **GONZALEZ**	(28) 03.02.93	UANL Tigres (Mex)
9 Gabriel **AVALOS**	(30) 12.10.90	Argentinos Juniors (Arg)
11 Angel **ROMERO**	(28) 04.07.92	San Lorenzo (Arg)
18 Braian **SAMUDIO**	(25) 23.12.95	Caykur Rizespor (Tur)
20 Antonio **BAREIRO**	(32) 24.04.89	Libertad
28 Julio **ENCISO**	(17) 23.01.04	Libertad
COACH		
Eduardo **BERIZZO** (Arg)	(51) 13.11.69	

PERU

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Pedro **GALLESE**	(31) 23.02.90	Orlando City (USA)
12 Carlos **CACEDA**	(29) 27.09.91	Melgar
21 Jose **CARVALLO**	(35) 01.03.86	Universitario
DEFENDERS		
2 Luis **ABRAM**	(25) 27.02.96	Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
3 Aldo **CORZO**	(32) 20.05.89	Universitario
4 Anderson **SANTAMARIA**	(29) 10.01.92	Atlas (Mex)
5 Miguel **ARAUJO**	(26) 24.10.94	Emmen (Ned)
6 Miguel **TRAUCO**	(28) 25.08.92	Saint-Etienne (Fra)
15 Christian **RAMOS**	(32) 04.11.88	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
16 Marcos **LOPEZ**	(21) 20.11.99	San Jose Earthquakes (USA)
22 Alexander **CALLENS**	(29) 04.05.92	New York City (USA)
25 Renzo **GARCES**	(25) 12.06.96	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
26 Jhilmar **LORA**	(20) 24.10.00	Sporting Cristal
MIDFIELDERS		
7 Martin **TAVARA**	(22) 25.03.99	Sporting Cristal
8 Sergio **PENA**	(25) 28.09.95	Emmen (Ned)
10 Christian **CUEVA**	(29) 23.11.91	Al-Fateh (Ksa)
13 Renato **TAPIA**	(25) 28.07.95	Celta Vigo (Spa)
14 Wilder **CARTAGENA**	(26) 23.09.94	Godoy Cruz (Arg)
19 Yoshimar **YOTUN**	(31) 07.04.90	Cruz Azul (Mex)
23 Alexis **ARIAS**	(25) 13.12.95	Melgar
24 Raziel **GARCIA**	(27) 15.02.94	Cienciano
FORWARDS		
9 Gianluca **LAPADULA**	(31) 07.02.90	Benevento (Ita)
11 Alex **VALERA**	(25) 16.05.96	Universitario
17 Luis **IBERICO**	(23) 06.02.98	Melgar
18 Andre **CARRILLO**	(29) 14.06.91	Al-Hilal (Ksa)
20 Santiago **ORMENO**	(27) 04.02.94	Puebla (Mex)
COACH		
Ricardo **GARECA** (Arg)	(63) 10.02.58	

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Fernando **MUSLERA**	(34) 16.06.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
12 Martin **CAMPANA**	(32) 29.05.89	Al-Batin (Ksa)
23 Sergio **ROCHET**	(28) 23.03.93	Nacional
DEFENDERS		
2 Jose **GIMENEZ**	(26) 20.01.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3 Diego **GODIN**	(35) 16.02.86	Cagliari (Ita)
4 Ronald **ARAUJO**	(22) 07.03.99	Barcelona (Spa)
11 Camilo **CANDIDO**	(26) 02.06.95	Nacional
13 Giovanni **GONZALEZ**	(26) 20.09.94	Penarol
17 Matias **VINA**	(23) 09.11.97	Palmeiras (Bra)
19 Sebastian **COATES**	(30) 07.10.90	Sporting (Por)
22 Martin **CACERES**	(34) 07.04.87	Fiorentina (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Matias **VECINO**	(29) 24.08.91	Internazionale (Ita)
6 Rodrigo **BENTANCUR**	(23) 25.06.97	Juventus (Ita)
7 Nicolas **DE LA CRUZ**	(24) 01.06.97	River Plate (Arg)
8 Nahitan **NANDEZ**	(25) 28.12.95	Cagliari (Ita)
10 Giorgian **DE ARRASCAETA**	(27) 01.06.94	Flamengo (Bra)
14 Lucas **TORREIRA**	(25) 11.02.96	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
15 Federico **VALVERDE**	(22) 22.07.98	Real Madrid (Spa)
16 Brian **RODRIGUEZ**	(21) 20.05.00	Almeria (Spa)
24 Fernando **GORRIARAN**	(26) 27.11.94	Santos Laguna (Mex)
FORWARDS		
9 Luis **SUAREZ**	(34) 24.01.87	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
18 Maxi **GOMEZ**	(24) 14.08.96	Valencia (Spa)
20 Jonathan **RODRIGUEZ**	(27) 06.07.93	Cruz Azul (Mex)
21 Edinson **CAVANI**	(34) 14.02.87	Manchester United (Eng)
25 Facundo **TORRES**	(21) 13.04.00	Penarol
26 Brian **OCAMPO**	(21) 25.06.99	Nacional
COACH		
Oscar **TABAREZ**	(74) 03.03.47	

VENEZUELA

GOALKEEPERS		
1 Wuilker **FARINEZ**	(23) 15.02.98	Lens (Fra)
12 Joel **GRATEROL**	(24) 13.02.97	America de Cali (Col)
22 Luis **ROMERO**	(30) 16.11.90	Portuguesa
DEFENDERS		
2 Nahuel **FERRARESI**	(22) 19.11.98	Moreirense (Por)
3 Mikel **VILLANUEVA**	(28) 14.04.93	Santa Clara (Por)
4 Jose Manuel **VELAZQUEZ**	(30) 08.09.90	Arouca (Por)
8 Francisco **LA MANTIA**	(25) 24.02.96	Deportivo La Guaira
14 Luis **MAGO**	(26) 15.09.94	Universidad de Chile (Chi)
16 Roberto **ROSALES**	(32) 20.11.88	Leganes (Spa)
20 Ronald **HERNANDEZ**	(23) 21.09.97	Atlanta United (USA)
21 Alexander **GONZALEZ**	(28) 13.09.92	Malaga (Spa)
27 Yohan **CUMANA**	(25) 08.03.96	Deportivo La Guaira
28 Adrian **MARTINEZ**	(27) 14.07.93	Deportivo La Guaira
MIDFIELDERS		
5 Junior **MORENO**	(27) 20.07.93	D.C. United (USA)
6 Yangel **HERRERA**	(23) 07.01.98	Granada (Spa)
7 Jefferson **SAVARINO**	(24) 11.11.96	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
10 Yeferson **SOTELDO**	(23) 30.06.97	Toronto (Can)
13 Jose Andres **MARTINEZ**	(26) 07.09.94	Philadelphia Union (USA)
18 Romulo **OTERO**	(28) 09.11.92	Corinthians (Bra)
23 Cristian **CASSERES Jr.**	(21) 20.01.00	New York Red Bulls (USA)
24 Bernaldo **MANZANO**	(30) 02.07.90	Deportivo Lara
25 Richard **CELIS**	(25) 23.04.96	Caracas
26 Edson **CASTILLO**	(27) 18.05.94	Caracas
FORWARDS		
9 Fernando **ARISTEGUIETA**	(29) 09.04.92	Mazatlan (Mex)
11 Sergio **CORDOVA**	(23) 09.08.97	Arminia Bielefeld (Ger)
15 Jan Carlos **HURTADO**	(21) 05.03.00	Red Bull Bragantino (Bra)
17 Josef **MARTINEZ**	(28) 19.05.93	Atlanta United (USA)
19 Jhonder **CADIZ**	(25) 29.07.95	Nashville (USA)
COACH		
Jose **PESEIRO** (Por)	(61) 04.04.60	

(ages as of 13.06.21)

Club Football

SOUTH AMERICA

COPA SUDAMERICANA

Group Stage

Group A

Apr 21 - Villa Elisa
12 de Octubre 1 (Velazquez 69)
Rosario Central 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Soto (Ven)

Apr 21 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 0
Huachipato 1 (Martinez 5)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)

Apr 28 - Vina del Mar
Huachipato 0
12 de Octubre 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)

Apr 29 - Rosario
Rosario Central 2 (Almada 11, Gamba 81)
San Lorenzo 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ferreyra (Uru)

May 5 - Vina del Mar
Huachipato 1 (Altamirano 33)
Rosario Central 1 (Zabala 67)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Claus (Bra)

May 7 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 1 (Troyansky 31)
12 de Octubre 1 (Nunez 45)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)

May 12 - Villa Elisa
12 de Octubre 1 (Nunez 55)
Huachipato 2 (Mazzantti 25, 57)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Souza (Bra)

May 13 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 1 (Avila 25 og)
Rosario Central 2 (Gattoni 66 og, Vecchio 72)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Arleu (Bra)

May 20 - Banfield
Rosario Central 5 (Gamba 27, Vecchio 36 pen, Gutierrez 44 og, D. Martinez 45+1, L. Martinez 78)
Huachipato 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Ferreyra (Uru)

May 20 - Villa Elisa
12 de Octubre 0
San Lorenzo 2 (Diaz 45, Romero 59)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Toski (Bra)

May 27 - Banfield
Rosario Central 0
12 de Octubre 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Matonte (Uru)

May 27 - Vina del Mar
Huachipato 0
San Lorenzo 3 (Fernandez 10, 32, Sequeira 54)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Souza (Bra)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosario Central (Q)	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Huachipato	6	2	2	2	4	10	8
San Lorenzo	6	2	1	3	7	6	7
12 de Octubre	6	1	3	2	3	5	6

Group B

Apr 22 - Montevideo
Montevideo City Torque 1 (Pizzichillo 51)
Bahia 1 (Rodriguinho 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Quiroz (Ecu)

Apr 22 - Montero
Guabira 1 (Pascua 89)
Independiente 3 (Herrera 8, 35, 52)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Haro (Per)

Apr 27 - Salvador
Bahia 5 (Alesson 8, 79, Juninho 40, Ryan 65, 71)
Guabira 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Garay (Chi)

Apr 28 - Avellaneda
Independiente 3 (Romero 63, Herrera 71, Coccaro 90+1 og)
Montevideo City Torque 1 (Del Prete 49)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ortega (Per)

May 4 - Salvador
Bahia 2 (Thaciano 57, Otavio 82)
Independiente 2 (Herrera 43 pen, Velasco 51 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)

May 5 - Montevideo
Montevideo City Torque 4 (Scotto 34, Del Prete 71, 90+3, Guerrero 90+1)
Guabira 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)

May 12 - Montevideo
Montevideo City Torque 1 (Del Prete 44 pen)
Independiente 1 (Herrera 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mendez (Par)

May 13 - Montero
Guabira 0
Bahia 1 (Gilberto 57)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Soto (Ven)

May 18 - Avellaneda
Independiente 1 (Anderson 83 og)
Bahia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)

May 21 - Montero
Guabira 0
Montevideo City Torque 4 (Del Prete 2, Pizzichillo 24, Teuten 48, Alvarez 52)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Menendez (Per)

May 26 - Avellaneda
Independiente 1 (Romero 83)
Guabira 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lopez (Par)

May 26 - Salvador
Bahia 2 (Anderson 2, Paraiba 47)
Montevideo City Torque 4 (Pizzichillo 25, Scotto 39, Allende 77, Guzman 90+2)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Vivar (Par)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente (Q)	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
Montevideo City Torque	6	3	2	1	15	7	11
Bahia	6	2	2	2	11	8	8
Guabira	6	0	0	6	1	18	0

Group C

Apr 21 - Fortaleza
Ceara 3 (Pedrinho 29, Mendoza 37 pen, Vinicius 82)
Jorge Wilstermann 1 (Osorio 54 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chi)

Apr 22 - La Paz
Bolivar 2 (Fernandez 42, Saavedra 61)
Arsenal 1 (Bottinelli 90+2)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Congo (Ecu)

Apr 28 - Sarandi
Arsenal 0
Ceara 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mendez (Par)

Apr 29 - Cochabamba
Jorge Wilstermann 0
Bolivar 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)

May 5 - La Paz
Bolivar 0
Ceara 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)

May 6 - Sarandi
Arsenal 3 (Albertengo 1, Candia 84, 87)
Jorge Wilstermann 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hermosilla (Chi)

May 12 - Fortaleza
Ceara 0
Arsenal 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)

May 13 - La Paz
Bolivar 2 (Saavedra 23 pen, 42 pen)
Jorge Wilstermann 2 (Osorio 6 pen, Arano 86)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Ortega (Per)

May19 - Cochabamba
Jorge Wilstermann 1 (Osorio 38 pen)
Arsenal 2 (Albertengo 61, Farioli 67)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Bentancur (Col)

May 20 - Fortaleza
Ceara 2 (Lima 45, Vinicius 84 pen)
Bolivar 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)

May 27 - Cochabamba
Jorge Wilstermann 1 (Rodriguez 74)
Ceara 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Guerrero (Ecu)

May 27 - Sarandi
Arsenal 3 (Albertengo 14, 47, Sepulveda 45+3)
Bolivar 1 (Quinteros 64)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ospina (Col)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal (Q)	6	3	2	1	9	4	11
Ceara	6	2	3	1	5	2	9
Bolivar	6	1	3	2	5	8	6
Jorge Wilstermann	6	1	2	3	5	10	5

Group D

Apr 20 - Caracas
Metropolitanos 2 (Bahachille 9, Bustillo 20)
Melgar 3 (Cuesta 45+5, Iberico 53, Vidales 88)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Herrera (Col)

Apr 21 - Quito
Aucas 0
Athletico Paranaense 1 (Erick 38)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Maza (Chi)

Apr 28 - Curitiba
Athletico Paranaense 1 (Kayzer 54)
Metropolitanos 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tejera (Uru)

Apr 29 - Lima
Melgar 2 (Cuesta 21 pen, 53)
Aucas 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ortega (Col)

May 4 - Caracas
Metropolitanos 3 (Flores 14, Moreno 51, Pavone 65 pen)
Aucas 2 (Ordonez 67 pen, Carrera 69)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Espinoza (Arg)

May 5 - Lima
Melgar 1 (Bordacahar 50)
Athletico Paranaense 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bentancur (Col)

May 11 - Caracas
Metropolitanos 0
Athletico Paranaense 1 (Vitinho 61)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lopez (Par)

May 14 - Quito
Aucas 2 (Vega 56, Carrera 78)
Melgar 1 (Cuesta 7)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Echenique (Arg)

May 20 - Curitiba
Athletico Paranaense 1 (Kayzer 43)
Melgar 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Matonte (Uru)

May 20 - Quito
Aucas 3 (Ordonez 39, 76, Pizzorno 68)
Metropolitanos 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Aleman (Bol)

May 28 - Curitiba
Athletico Paranaense 4 (Christian 26, Abner 36, Vitinho 67, Eduardo 90+2)
Aucas 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Merlos (Arg)

May 28 - Lima
Melgar 0
Metropolitanos 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ath. Paranaense (Q)	6	5	0	1	8	1	15
Melgar	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Aucas	6	2	0	4	7	11	6
Metropolitanos	6	1	1	4	5	10	4

Group E

Apr 23 - Montevideo
Penarol 5 (Martinez 16, 80, Torres 33, Kagelmacher 45, Terans 69 pen)
Sport Huancayo 1 (Lilliu 17)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Cajas (Ecu)

Apr 23 - Asuncion
River Plate 0
Corinthians 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Arg)

Apr 29 - Lima
Sport Huancayo 1 (Lilliu 38)
River Plate 2 (Gonzalez 5, 43)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Gallo (Col)

Apr 29 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 0
Penarol 2 (Gonzalez 13, Terans 56)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tello (Arg)

May 7 - Lima
Sport Huancayo 0
Corinthians 3 (Luan 5, 76, Caue 31)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Ospina (Col)

May 7 - Montevideo
Penarol 3 (Kagelmacher 22, Torres 80 pen, Canobbio 89)
River Plate 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Orbe (Ecu)

May 14 - Asuncion
River Plate 2 (Perez 38, Gonzalez 62)
Sport Huancayo 1 (Arroe 19)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hermosilla (Chi)

May 14 - Montevideo
Penarol 4 (Martinez 5, 14, 69, Canobbio 53)
Corinthians 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)

May 18 - Asuncion
River Plate 2 (Garcete 10, Caballero 90+3)
Penarol 1 (Martinez 54)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Echenique (Arg)

May 21 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 5 (Mosquito 11, 69, Vital 35, Gil 57, Luan 82)
Sport Huancayo 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hermosilla (Chi)

May 27 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 4 (Ramiro 22, 59, Jo 29, Vital 34)
River Plate 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)

May 27 - Lima
Sport Huancayo 0
Penarol 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tello (Arg)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol (Q)	6	4	1	1	15	3	13
Corinthians	6	3	1	2	12	6	10
River Plate	6	3	1	2	6	10	10
Sport Huancayo	6	0	1	5	5	17	1

Group F

Apr 20 - Goiania
Atletico Goianiense 0
Newell's Old Boys 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tejera (Uru)

Apr 23 - Asuncion
Libertad 2 (Bogarin 71, Oviedo 73)
Palestino 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bracamonte (Ven)

Apr 30 - Rancagua
Palestino 0
Atletico Goianiense 1 (Roberto 11)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Menendez (Per)

Apr 30 - Rosario
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Rodriguez 90 pen)
Libertad 3 (Bocanegra 36, Martinez 55, Bareiro 86)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)

May 5 - Rancagua
Palestino 0
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Rodriguez 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)

May 6 - Asuncion
Libertad 1 (Bareiro 90+2)
Atletico Goianiense 2 (Roberto 40, Arnaldo 86)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)

May 13 - Goiania
Atletico Goianiense 0
Palestino 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Orbe (Ecu)

May 14 - Asuncion
Libertad 1 (Ferreira 9)
Newell's Old Boys 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tejera (Uru)

May 19 - Goiania
Atletico Goianiense 0
Libertad 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Guerrero (Ecu)

May 20 - Rosario
Newell's Old Boys 3 (Castro 5, Sordo 70, Suarez 85 og)
Palestino 1 (Sotelo 47)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)

May 25 - Rosario
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Giani 54)
Atletico Goianiense 1 (Danilo 73)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gallo (Col)

May 25 - Rancagua
Palestino 1 (Benitez 44)
Libertad 2 (Baez 54 pen, Martinez 73)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ferreyra (Uru)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad (Q)	6	4	1	1	9	4	13
Atletico Goianiense	6	2	4	0	4	2	10
Newell's Old Boys	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Palestino	6	0	1	5	2	9	1

Group G

Apr 22 - Cordoba
Talleres 1 (Fragapane 39)
Emelec 2 (Rodriguez 73 pen, Barcelo 78)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ortega (Per)

Apr 22 - Paulista
Red Bull Bragantino 2 (Castrillon 10 og, Ytalo 45)
Deportes Tolima 1 (Mosquera 90+4 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)

Apr 29 - Ibague
Deportes Tolima 1 (Campaz 56)
Talleres 1 (Tenaglia 43)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)

Apr 29 - Guayaquil
Emelec 3 (Aderlan 49 og, Zapata 64, Cabeza 86)
Red Bull Bragantino 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)

May 6 - Paulista
Red Bull Bragantino 0
Talleres 1 (Valoyes 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chi)

May 8 - Lima
Deportes Tolima 1 (Mosquera 22 pen)
Emelec 1 (Zapata 41)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Haro (Per)

May 11 - Paulista
Red Bull Bragantino 2 (Bruno 29, Artur 82)
Emelec 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)

May 12 - Cordoba
Talleres 0
Deportes Tolima 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)

May 19 - Cordoba
Talleres 0
Red Bull Bragantino 1 (Helinho 28)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Uru)

May 19 - Guayaquil
Emelec 2 (Angulo 71 og, Rojas 72)
Deportes Tolima 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)

May 26 - Guayaquil
Emelec 1 (Rodriguez 73)
Talleres 4 (Diaz 13, Auzqui 24, Martino 38, Komar 82)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)

May 26 - San Cristobal
Deportes Tolima 1 (Caicedo 37)
Red Bull Bragantino 2 (Ytalo 41, Evangelista 80)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Valenzuela (Ven)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RB Bragantino (Q)	6	4	0	2	7	6	12
Emelec	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Talleres	6	2	2	2	7	5	8
Deportes Tolima	6	0	3	3	4	8	3

Group H

Apr 22 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 2 (Souza 37, Miranda 77)
La Equidad 1 (Duarte 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

Apr 22 - Caracas
Aragua 0
Lanus 1 (Lopez 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)

Apr 30 - Pereira
La Equidad 2 (Colina 17, Rodriguez 54)
Aragua 1 (Manrique 72)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Espinoza (Per)

Apr 30 - Lanus
Lanus 1 (Belmonte 69)
Gremio 2 (Pereira 34, Ferreira 86)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Maza (Chi)

May 6 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 8 (Fernando 3, 18, Souza 21 pen, Ferreira 22, 24, Hernandez 28 og, Maicon 64 pen, Churin 77)
Aragua 0
HT: 6-0. **Ref:** Guerrero (Ecu)

May 7 - Asuncion
La Equidad 0
Lanus 1 (Vera 27)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lopez (Par)

May 13 - Caracas
Aragua 1 (Rivillo 44)
La Equidad 2 (Duarte 15, Herazo 90+3 pen)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)

May 13 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 3 (Henrique 3, Ferreira 22, 78)
Lanus 1 (Burdisso 6)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)

May 21 - Lanus
Lanus 4 (Sand 45, 64, Acosta 51, Vega 79)
La Equidad 1 (Herazo 77)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tejera (Uru)

May 21 - Caracas
Aragua 2 (Stephens 48, Garcia 89)
Gremio 6 (Chu 20, Ricardinho 31, Darlan 53, Pepe 69, Elias 90+2, 90+3)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Vivar (Par)

May 28 - Lanus
Lanus 0
Aragua 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Espinoza (Per)

May 28 - Ambato
La Equidad 0
Gremio 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gremio (Q)	6	5	1	0	21	5	16
Lanus	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
La Equidad	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Aragua	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

ASIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2021

Group Stage (East)

Group F

Jun 26 - Thanyaburi
BG Pathum United 4 (Teerasil 23, 59, Diogo 35, 51)
Kaya-Iloilo 1 (Angeles 81)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Sato (Jpn)

Jun 26 - Thanyaburi
Viettel 0
Ulsan Hyundai 1 (Hinterseer 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Qasim (Irq)

Jun 29 - Thanyaburi
Ulsan Hyundai 2 (Kim 24, Hinterseer 45+2)
BG Pathum United 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Al-Athbah (Qat)

Jun 29 - Thanyaburi
Kaya-Iloilo 0
Viettel 5 (Durc 2, Caique 7, 61, Dung 49, Tuan 65)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Mahfoodh (Bhr)

Jul 2 - Thanyaburi
Kaya-Iloilo 0
Ulsan Hyundai 3 (Oh 12, 40, Qazaishvili 48)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Yehia (Lbn)

Jul 2 - Thanyaburi
BG Pathum United 2 (Thitiphan 13, Chaowat 84)
Viettel 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hattab (Syr)

Group G

Jun 22 - Bangkok
Pohang Steelers 2 (Tashchy 11, Lim 81)
Ratchaburi Mitr Phol 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ning (Chn)

Jun 22 - Bangkok
Johor Darul Ta'zim 0
Nagoya Grampus 1 (Abe 60)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mohamed (UAE)

Jun 25 - Bangkok
Nagoya Grampus 3 (Kakitani 34, Mateus 65 pen, 82)
Pohang Steelers 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al-Khudhayr (Ksa)

Jun 25 - Bangkok
Ratchaburi Mitr Phol 0
Johor Darul Ta'zim 1 (Velazquez 47)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)

Jun 28 - Bangkok
Ratchaburi Mitr Phol 0
Nagoya Grampus 4 (Yamasaki 26, 31, 45+1, Saito 69)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Al-Yaqoubi (Oma)

Jun 28 - Bangkok
Pohang Steelers 4 (Tashchy 27 pen, Kang 35 pen, Kwon 82, Lim 90+1 pen)
Johor Darul Ta'zim 1 (Velazquez 17)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Evans (Aus)

Jul 1 - Bangkok
Johor Darul Ta'zim 0
Pohang Steelers 2 (Lee 33, Kang 37)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Ning (Chn)

Jul 1 - Bangkok
Nagoya Grampus 3 (Mateus 50, Kakitani 73, Yamasaki 79)
Ratchaburi Mitr Phol 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Khudhayr (Ksa)

Jul 4 - Bangkok
Ratchaburi Mitr Phol 0
Pohang Steelers 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Athbah (Qat)

Jul 4 - Bangkok
Nagoya Grampus 2 (Mateus 4 pen, Abe 28)
Johor Darul Ta'zim 1 (Ramadhan 42)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)

Group H

Jun 25 - Tashkent
Tampines Rovers 0
Gamba Osaka 2 (Patric 26, Pereira 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gamini (Sri)

Jun 25 - Tashkent
Jeonbuk Hyundai 2 (Lee 36, Gustavo 52 pen)
Chiangrai United 1 (Ekanit 68)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al-Jassim (Qat)

Jun 28 - Tashkent
Chiangrai United 1 (Sivakorn 87)
Tampines Rovers 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Ali (UAE)

Jun 28 - Tashkent
Gamba Osaka 2 (Patric 27, 31)
Jeonbuk Hyundai 2 (Iljutcenko 2, Kunimoto 17)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Al-Hoish (Ksa)

Jul 1 - Tashkent
Jeonbuk Hyundai 9 (Barrow 5, 54, 75, Gustavo 14, 15, 57 pen, 60, Kim 35, Iljutcenko 72)
Tampines Rovers 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Ibrahim (Jor)

Jul 1 - Tashkent
Chiangrai United 1 (Bill 90+4)
Gamba Osaka 1 (Pereira 88)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Kaf (Oma)

Jul 4 - Tashkent
Tampines Rovers 0
Jeonbuk Hyundai 4 (Iljutcenko 36, 75, Gustavo 64, Barrow 73)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tufayelieh (Syr)

Jul 4 - Tashkent
Gamba Osaka 1 (Brinner 54 og)
Chiangrai United 1 (Amorim 6)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Yaacob (Mas)

Group I

Jun 26 - Tashkent
United City 1 (Schrock 28)
Beijing Guoan 1 (Shaowen 73)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Bonyadifard (Irn)

Jun 26 - Tashkent
Kawasaki Frontale 3 (Damiao 40, 51, Schmidt 55)
Daegu FC 2 (Hwang 8, Cesinha 47)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Al-Kaf (Oma)

Jun 29 - Tashkent
Daegu FC 7 (Cesinha 23, Edgar 42, Kim 45+3, An 62, 72, Park 90, Jung 90+5 pen)
United City 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Yaacob (Mas)

Jun 29 - Tashkent
Beijing Guoan 0
Kawasaki Frontale 7 (Hasegawa 7, Tachibanada 8, Tono 41, Chinen 47 pen, 59, Yamamura 51, Wakizaka 56)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Tufayelieh (Syr)

Jul 2 - Tashkent
Kawasaki Frontale 8 (Mitoma 33, 82, Oshima 42, Damiao 50, Tachibanada 56, 65, 70, Wakizaka 90+2)
United City 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Akrami (Irn)

Jul 2 - Tashkent
Daegu FC 5 (Cesinha 14, 27, Edgar 48, 55, Oh 90+2)
Beijing Guoan 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Al-Hoish (Ksa)

Group J

Jun 24 - Buriram
Guangzhou 0
Cerezo Osaka 2 (Okuno 15, Pagnussat 69)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Shukralla (Bhr)

Jun 24 - Buriram
Kitchee 2 (Roberto 37, Damjanovic 79)
Port 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kim (Kor)

Jun 27 - Buriram
Port 3 (Elias 21, Pakorn 60, Roller 76)
Guangzhou 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Heidari (Irn)

Jun 27 - Buriram
Cerezo Osaka 2 (Taggart 69, Pagnussat 71)
Kitchee 1 (Damjanovic 38)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Al-Marri (Qat)

Jun 30 - Buriram
Cerezo Osaka 1 (Sakamoto 79)
Port 1 (Pakorn 45+3)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ko (Kor)

Jun 30 - Buriram
Guangzhou 0
Kitchee 1 (Damjanovic 36 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)

Jul 3 - Buriram
Port 0
Cerezo Osaka 3 (Maruhashi 12, Okubo 45, Sakamoto 47)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Shukralla (Bhr)

Jul 3 - Buriram
Kitchee 1 (Damjanovic 70 pen)
Guangzhou 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Marri (Qat)

AFRICA

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020-21

Semi-Finals - Leg 1

Jun 19 - Casablanca
Wydad 0
Kaizer Chiefs 1 (Nurkovic 34)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** N'Diaye (Sen)

Jun 19 - Rades
Esperance 0
Al Ahly 1 (Sherif 67)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gomes (Rsa)

Semi-Finals - Leg 2

Jun 26 - Johannesburg
Kaizer Chiefs 0 (1)
Wydad 0 (0)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ndala (Cod)

Jun 26 - Cairo
Al Ahly 3 (4) (Maaloul 38 pen, Sherif 56, El Shahat 60)
Esperance 0 (0)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Alioum (Cmr)

Internationals

2021 COPA AMERICA

Group A

Jun 14 - Rio deJaneiro
Argentina 1 (Messi 33)
Chile 1 (Vargas 57)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Montiel (Molina 85), Otamendi, Martinez Quarta, Tagliafico, Paredes (Palacios 68), De Paul, Lo Celso (Di Maria 67), Messi, L. Martinez (Aguero 80), Gonzalez (Correa 80).
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel (Roco 84), Maripan, Mena, Vidal (Alarcon 85), Aranguiz, Pulgar, Meneses (Galdames 90+3), Vargas (Pinares 77), Palacios (Brereton 77).

Jun 15 - Goiania
Paraguay 3 (Al. Romero 62, An. Romero 65, 80)
Bolivia 1 (Saavedra 10 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Haro (Per)
Paraguay: Silva - Espinola, Gomez, Alonso, Arzamendia (Martinez 74), Piris (Gonzalez 58), Villasanti (Sanchez 46), Almiron, Al. Romero (Cubas 87), An. Romero, Avalos (Enciso 87).
Bolivia: Cordano - Bejarano, Sagredo, Jusino, Quinteros, Flores (Fernandez 46), Justiniano (Sanchez 75), Cespedes (Bejarano 46), Saavedra (Wayar 64), Alvarez (Ramallo 69), Cuellar. *Sent off: Cuellar 45+9.*

Jun 18 - Cuiaba
Chile 1 (Brereton 10)
Bolivia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gil (Esp)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Maripan, Mena, Vidal (Alarcon 69), Aranguiz, Pulgar, Meneses (Pinares 65), Vargas, Brereton (Aranguiz 84).
Bolivia: Lampe - Bejarano, Jusino, Quinteros, Fernandez, Justiniano (Bejarano 90), Saavedra (Flores 78), R. Vaca (Villarroel 90), Arce, Chura (Ramallo 64), Alvarez.

Jun 19 - Brasilia
Argentina 1 (Rodriguez 13)
Uruguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Molina, Otamendi, Romero, Acuna, De Paul (Pezzella 90+3), Rodriguez, Lo Celso (Palacios 52), Messi, L. Martinez (Correa 52), Gonzalez (Di Maria 70).
Uruguay: Muslera - Godin, Gimenez, Gonzalez (Torres 70), Vina, Torreira (Vecino 64), Bentancur (Nandez 46), Valverde (Gorriaran 84), De La Cruz (Ocampo 65), Suarez, Cavani.

Jun 21 - Cuiaba
Uruguay 1 (Suarez 66)
Chile 1 (Vargas 26)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Claus (Bra)
Uruguay: Muslera - Gonzalez (Nandez 46), Godin, Gimenez, Vina (Rodriguez 85), Vecino (Torreira 81), De La Cruz (Caceres 46), Valverde, De Arrascaeta (Torres 60), Suarez, Cavani.
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Sierralta, Maripan (Roco 38), Mena, Vidal (Alarcon 69), Aranguiz, Pulgar, Vargas (Meneses 56), Brereton (Arriagada 69).

Jun 22 - Brasilia
Argentina 1 (Gomez 10)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Valenzuela (Ven)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Molina, Pezzella, Romero, Tagliafico, Paredes (Dominguez 81), Rodriguez, Gomez (De Paul 72), Di Maria (Correa 81), Messi, Aguero (Correa 59).
Paraguay: Silva - Espinola, Gomez, Alonso, Arzamendia, Cubas (Cardozo 66), Piris (Sanchez 82), Almiron, Al. Romero (O. Romero 66), An. Romero (Gonzalez 87), Avalos (Samudio 87).

Jun 24 - Cuiaba
Bolivia 0
Uruguay 2 (Quinteros 40 og, Cavani 79)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)
Bolivia: Lampe - Saavedra, Jusino, Quinteros, Fernandez (Flores 74), Justiniano, Chura (H. Vaca 46), Villarroel (Bejarano 46), R. Vaca, Arce (Sanchez 68), Ramallo (Martins 61).
Uruguay: Muslera - Nandez (Gonzalez 88), Godin, Gimenez, Vina, Vecino, Valverde, De La Cruz (Bentancur 61), De Arrascaeta (Torres 73), Suarez (Gomez 88), Cavani.

Jun 25 - Brasilia
Chile 0
Paraguay 2 (Samudio 33, Almiron 58 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel (Roco 68), Sierralta, Mena, Vidal, Aranguiz, Alarcon (Meneses 46), Pinares (Galdames 68), Vargas, Brereton.
Paraguay: Silva - Espinola, Gomez, Alonso, Martinez, Arzamendia (Alderete 84), Cardozo (Gimenez 84), Villasanti, Samudio (An. Romero 62), Almiron (Bareiro 77), Gonzalez (O. Romero 77).

Jun 29 - Rio deJaneiro
Uruguay 1 (Cavani 21 pen)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Claus (Bra)
Uruguay: Muslera - Nandez, Godin (Coates 46), Gimenez, Vina, Vecino (Caceres 57), Bentancur, Valverde (Torreira 76), De Arrascaeta (Torres 67), De La Cruz, Cavani (Suarez 68).
Paraguay: Silva - Espinola (Martinez 57), Alonso, Rojas, Alderete, Gimenez (Sanchez 74), Villasanti, An. Romero, Samudio (Cubas 73), Almiron (O. Romero 33), Avalos (Gonzalez 57).

Jun 29 - Cuiaba
Bolivia 1 (Saavedra 60)
Argentina 4 (Gomez 6, Messi 33 pen, 42, L. Martinez 65)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)
Bolivia: Lampe - Bejarano, Jusino, Haquin, Fernandez (Wayar 81), Justiniano, Cespedes (Sagredo 61), Saavedra (Villarroel 85), R. Vaca, Chura (H. Vaca 61), Alvarez (Ramallo 61).
Argentina: Armani - Montiel, Pezzella, Martinez Quarta, Acuna, Rodriguez (Paredes 71), Palacios (Dominguez 71), Gomez (Alvarez 56), Messi, Correa (Lo Celso 64), Aguero (L. Martinez 63).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina (Q)	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Uruguay (Q)	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Paraguay (Q)	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
Chile (Q)	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Bolivia	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

Group B

Jun 13 - Brasilia
Brazil 3 (Marquinhos 23, Neymar 64 pen, Gabriel Barbosa 89)
Venezuela 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)
Brazil: Alisson - Danilo, Marquinhos, Militao, Lodi (Sandro 46), Casemiro, Fred (Fabinho 85), Paqueta (Ribeiro 46), Neymar, Jesus (Vinicius Jr. 85), Richarlison (Gabriel Barbosa 65).
Venezuela: Graterol - Gonzalez (Hernandez 90+2), La Mantia, A. Martinez, Mago, Cumana, J. Martinez, Moreno, Manzano (Celis 77), Casseres (Castillo 84), Aristeguieta (Cordova 77).

Jun 14 - Cuiaba
Colombia 1 (Cardona 42)
Ecuador 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Colombia: Ospina - Munoz, Murillo (Sanchez 82), Mina, Moreno (Tesillo 45+5), Cuadrado, Barrios, Uribe (Perez 61), Cardona (Cuellar 82), Borja (Zapata 61), Santos Borre.
Ecuador: Ortiz - A. Preciado, Arboleda, Hincapie, Estupinan, Martinez (Mena 59), Mendez, Plata (E. Preciado 69), M. Caicedo (Diaz 80), Valencia, Estrada (J. Caicedo 69).

Jun 17 - Goiania
Colombia 0
Venezuela 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Colombia: Ospina - Munoz, Mina, Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado, Uribe, Barrios, Cardona (Diaz 62), Zapata (Borja 73), Muriel (Campaz 62). *Sent off: Diaz 90+4.*
Venezuela: Farinez - Gonzalez (Hernandez 89), La Mantia, A. Martinez, Mago, Cumana, J. Martinez, Moreno, Manzano, Casseres (Castillo 89), Aristeguieta.

Jun 18 - Rio deJaneiro
Brazil 4 (Sandro 12, Neymar 68, Ribeiro 89, Richarlison 90+3)
Peru 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Brazil: Ederson - Danilo (Emerson 84), T. Silva, Militao, Sandro (Lodi 77), Fred, Fabinho, Everton (Ribeiro 46), Neymar, Gabriel Barbosa (Richarlison 46), Jesus (Firmino 72).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Ramos, Abram, Lopez, Yotun (Arias 74), Tapia, Carrillo, Pena (Iberico 67), Cueva (Tavara 74), Lapadula (Valera 67).

Jun 20 - Rio deJaneiro
Venezuela 2 (Castillo 51, Hernandez 90+1)
Ecuador 2 (E. Preciado 39, Plata 71)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)
Venezuela: Farinez - Gonzalez, Velazquez, A. Martinez, Mago, Cumana (Hernandez 77), J. Martinez (Hurtado 77), Moreno (Celis 82), Castillo, Casseres (Manzano 82), Aristeguieta (Cordova 57).
Ecuador: Ortiz - A. Preciado, Hincapie, Arboleda, Estupinan, Mena (Plata 68), Mendez (Noboa 67), Caicedo, E. Preciado (Martinez 88), Valencia (Franco 83), Campana.

Jun 21 - Goiania
Colombia 1 (Borja 53 pen)
Peru 2 (Pena 17, Mina 64 og)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)
Colombia: Ospina - Medina (Morelos 81), Mina, Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado, Cardona (Chara 70), Perez (Cuellar 60), Barrios, Zapata (Muriel 61), Borja.
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Ramos, Callens, Lopez, Yotun, Tapia, Cueva (Garcia 90+2), Carrillo, Pena (Cartagena 83), Lapadula (Ormeno 83).

Jun 23 - Goiania
Ecuador 2 (Tapia 23 og, E. Preciado 45+3)
Peru 2 (Lapadula 49, Carrillo 54)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gil (Esp)
Ecuador: Galindez - A. Preciado, Arboleda, Hincapie, Estupinan, Diaz (Mena 64), E. Preciado (Martinez 90+2), Mendez (Noboa 81), Franco (J. Caicedo 82), M. Caicedo, Campana (Estrada 64).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Ramos, Callens, Trauco, Yotun (Iberico 90+3), Tapia, Cueva (Araujo 86), Carrillo, Pena (Cartagena 78), Lapadula (Ormeno 78).

Jun 24 - Rio deJaneiro
Brazil 2 (Firmino 78, Casemiro 90+10)
Colombia 1 (Diaz 10)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Brazil: Weverton - Danilo, T. Silva, Marquinhos, Sandro (Lodi 62), Casemiro, Ribeiro (Firmino 46), Fred (Paqueta 68), Neymar, Richarlison (Gabriel Barbosa 77), Jesus (Everton 77).
Colombia: Ospina - Munoz, Mina, Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuadrado, Uribe, Barrios, Diaz (Murillo 90+1), Zapata (Borja 64), Santos Borre (Cuellar 64).

Jun 27 - Goiania
Brazil 1 (Militao 37)
Ecuador 1 (Mena 53)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)
Brazil: Alisson - Emerson, Marquinhos, Militao, Lodi (Danilo 49), Fabinho, Luiz (Casemiro 63), Everton (Richarlison 78), Paqueta (Ribeiro 78), Firmino (Vinicius Jr. 63), Gabriel Barbosa.
Ecuador: Galindez - A. Preciado, Hincapie, Arboleda, Estupinan, Franco, Mendez, Palacios (Plata 72), Caicedo (Meria 17), E. Preciado (Pineida 84), Valencia (Campana 83).

Jun 27 - Brasilia
Venezuela 0
Peru 1 (Carrillo 48)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Venezuela: Farinez - Rosales (Gonzalez 69), Ferraresi, Villanueva, Mago, Hernandez, Castillo (Soteldo 69), Moreno, Savarino (Otero 59), Casseres (Martinez 59), Cordova (Hurtado 78).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Callens (Abram 27), Araujo, Trauco, Yotun, Tapia (Cartagena 73), Carrillo (Garcia 73), Pena, Cueva (Valera 83), Lapadula (Ormeno 83).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Peru (Q)	4	2	1	1	5	7	7
Colombia (Q)	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Ecuador (Q)	4	0	3	1	5	6	3
Venezuela	4	0	2	2	2	6	2

Quarter-Finals

Jul 2 - Goiania
Peru 3* (Gomez 21 og, Lapadula 40, Yotun 80)
Paraguay 3 (Gomez 11, Alonso 54, Avalos 90)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)
**Peru win 4-3 on penalties*
Peru: Gallese - Corzo (Lora 90+2), Ramos, Santamaria, Trauco, Yotun, Tapia, Cueva, Carrillo, Pena (Ormeno 60), Lapadula. *Sent off: Carrillo 85.*
Paraguay: Silva - Espinola, Gomez, Alonso, Martinez, Arzamendia (Enciso 83), Cardozo (Rojas 46), Villasanti (Piris 79), An. Romero, Sanchez (Avalos 83), Gonzalez (Samudio 68). *Sent off: Gomez 45+3.*

Jul 3 - Rio deJaneiro
Brazil 1 (Paqueta 46)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Brazil: Ederson - Danilo, T. Silva, Marquinhos, Lodi (Militao 90+1), Casemiro, Fred, Neymar, Firmino (Paqueta 46), Jesus, Richarlison (Everton 90+1). *Sent off: Jesus 48.*
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Sierralta, Vegas (Palacios 64), Mena, Vidal, Aranguiz (Valencia 88), Pulgar (Meneses 76), Sanchez (Brereton 46), Vargas.

Jul 3 - Brasilia
Uruguay 0
Colombia 0*
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gil (Esp)
**Colombia win 4-2 on penalties*
Uruguay: Muslera - Nandez, Godin, Gimenez, Vina, Vecino, Bentancur, Valverde (Caceres 80), De Arrascaeta (Torres 68), Suarez, Cavani.
Colombia: Ospina - Munoz, Mina, Sanchez, Tesillo, Cuellar, Barrios, Zapata, Diaz, Santos Borre (Borja 87), Muriel (Chara 67).

Jul 4 - Goiania
Argentina 3 (De Paul 40, L. Martinez 84, Messi 90+3)
Ecuador 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Molina, Otamendi, Pezzella, Acuna, Paredes (Rodriguez 71), De Paul, Lo Celso (Di Maria 71), Messi, L. Martinez (Aguero 90+4), Gonzalez (Tagliafico 83).
Ecuador: Galindez - A. Preciado (Campana 83), Arboleda, Hincapie, Estupinan, Franco (Caicedo 70), Gruezo (Estrada 46), Mendez, Mena, Valencia, Palacios (Plata 46). *Sent off: Hincapie 90+2.*

Semi-Finals

Jul 6 - Rio deJaneiro
Brazil 1 (Paqueta 35)
Peru 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)
Brazil: Ederson - Danilo, T. Silva, Marquinhos, Lodi (Militao 85), Casemiro, Fred (Fabinho 85), Everton (Ribeiro 70), Paqueta (Luiz 90+2), Neymar, Richarlison (Vinicius Jr. 85).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo (Lora 75), Ramos (Garcia 46), Callens, Santamaria, Trauco (Lopez 46), Yotun, Tapia (Tavara 89), Cueva (Ormeno 81), Pena, Lapadula.

Jul 7 - Brasilia
Argentina 1* (L. Martinez 7)
Colombia 1 (Diaz 61)
**Argentina win 3-2 on penalties*
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Valenzuela (Ven)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Molina (Montiel 46), Otamendi, Pezzella, Tagliafico, De Paul, Rodriguez, Lo Celso (Paredes 56), Messi, L. Martinez, Gonzalez (Di Maria 67).
Colombia: Ospina - Munoz, Mina, Sanchez, Tesillo (Fabra 46), Cuadrado, Cuellar (Chara 46), Barrios, Diaz, Zapata (Borja 60), Santos Borre (Cardona 46).

Third-Place Play-Off

Jul 10 - Brasilia
Colombia 3 (Cuadrado 49, Diaz 66, 90+4)
Peru 2 (Yotun 45, Lapadula 82)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Claus (Bra)
Colombia: Vargas - Medina, Mina (Sanchez 55), Murillo, Tesillo, Cuadrado, Barrios (Muriel 90+3), Cuellar (Santos Borre 83), Diaz, Cardona (Chara 46), Zapata (Borja 55).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo (Lora 78), Santamaria, Callens, Lopez, Yotun, Tapia (Cartagena 24), Carillo, Pena (Ormeno 78), Cueva (Garcia 69), Lapadula.

Final

Jul 11 - Rio de Janeiro
Argentina 1 (Di Maria 22)
Brazil 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)
Argentina: E. Martinez - Montiel, Otamendi, Romero (Pezzella 79), Acuna, Di Maria (Palacios 79), Paredes (Rodriguez 54), De Paul, Lo Celso (Tagliafico 63), Messi, L. Martinez (Gonzalez 79).
Brazil: Ederson - Danilo, Marquinhos, T. Silva, Lodi (Emerson 76), Casemiro, Fred (Firmino 46), Paqueta (Gabriel Barbosa 76), Everton (Vinicius Jr. 63), Neymar, Richarlison.

2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

ASIA section

● *4.5 finals places available*

Second Round

Group A

May 30 - Suzhou
Guam 0
China 7 (Lei 20 pen, 55, Jingdao 39, Xi 61, Elkeson 65, Alan 83, 87)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Pu-udom (Tha)

Jun 4 - Sharjah
Maldives 0
Syria 4 (Al-Mawas 29, 45+2 pen, 71 pen, Aosman 33 pen)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Al-Jeneibi (UAE)

Jun 7 - Sharjah
China 2 (Lei 56 pen, Xinghan 65)
Philippines 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hee-gon (Kor)

Jun 7 - Sharjah
Guam 0
Syria 3 (Mardikian 6, 9, Al-Mawas 84)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Al-Turais (Ksa)

Jun 11 - Sharjah
Philippines 3 (Guirado 12, Lopez 60 og, Hartmann 88)
Guam 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al-Jeneibi (UAE)

Jun 11 - Sharjah
China 5 (Binbin 5, Lei 30, Alan 68, Yuning 69, Long 79)
Maldives 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Al-Ali (Jor)

Jun 15 - Sharjah
Philippines 1 (Guirado 19)
Maldives 1 (Fasir 25)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pu-udom (Tha)

Jun 15 - Sharjah
China 3 (Xizhe 43, Lei 69 pen, Yuning 90+3)
Syria 1 (Aosman 50)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Taqi (Sin)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Syria (Q)	8	7	0	1	22	7	21
China (Q)	8	6	1	1	30	3	19
Philippines	8	3	2	3	12	11	11
Maldives	8	2	1	5	7	20	7
Guam	8	0	0	8	2	32	0

Group B

Jun 3 - Kuwait City
Nepal 2 (Bista 3 pen, Shrestha 80)
Chinese Taipei 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Woo-sung (Kor)

Jun 3 - Kuwait City
Australia 3 (Leckie 1, Irvine 24, Hrustic 66)
Kuwait 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Iida (Jpn)

Jun 7 - Kuwait City
Nepal 0
Jordan 3 (Faisal 23 pen, 48, Al-Arab 67)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Yaacob (Mas)

Jun 7 - Kuwait City
Australia 5 (Souttar 12, Maclaren 27 pen, Sainsbury 41, Duke 46, 84)
Chinese Taipei 1 (Wei-jie 62)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Al-Adba (Qat)

Jun 11 - Kuwait City
Nepal 0
Australia 3 (Leckie 6, Karacic 38, Boyle 57)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Al-Kaf (Oma)

Jun 11 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 0
Jordan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Shukralla (Bhr)

Jun 15 - Kuwait City
Australia 1 (Souttar 77)
Jordan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Woo-Sung (Kor)

Jun 15 - Kuwait City
Chinese Taipei 1 (Chun-ching 51)
Kuwait 2 (Nasser 14, 71)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Al-Kaf (Oma)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia (Q)	8	8	0	0	28	2	24
Kuwait	8	4	2	2	19	7	14
Jordan	8	4	2	2	13	3	14
Nepal	8	2	0	6	4	22	6
Chinese Taipei	8	0	0	8	4	34	0

Group C

Jun 3 - Arad
Iran 3 (Gholizadeh 23, Amiri 61, Ansarifard 84)
Hong Kong 1 (Orr 85)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Makhadmeh (Jor)

Jun 3 - Riffa
Bahrain 8 (Aswad 8, 71, Al-Romaihi 45+2, Madan 46, 65, Al-Shaikh 51, Abdullatif 75, 90+2)
Cambodia 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Kimura (Jpn)

Jun 7 - Arad
Iraq 4 (Ali 1, Resan 23, Adnan 27 pen, Hadi 90+3)
Cambodia 1 (Visal 55)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Baki (Oma)

Jun 7 - Riffa
Iran 3 (Azmoun 54, 61, Taremi 79)
Bahrain 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ming (Chn)

Jun 11 - Isa Town
Cambodia 0
Iran 10 (Jahanbakhsh 16 pen, Khalilzadeh 22, Taremi 27, Rotana 32 og, Mohammadi 58, Pouraliganji 64, Ansarifard 77 pen, Rezaei 80, 87, Ghayedi 84)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Jong-hyeok (Kor)

Jun 11 - Arad
Hong Kong 0
Iraq 1 (Wa 11 og)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Kimura (Jpn)

Jun 15 - Isa Town
Iran 1 (Azmoun 35)
Iraq 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tantashev (Uzb)

Jun 15 - Riffa
Bahrain 4 (Saeed 49, Isa 54 pen, 70, Abdullatif 90 pen)
Hong Kong 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Baki (Oma)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran (Q)	8	6	0	2	34	4	18
Iraq (Q)	8	5	2	1	14	4	17
Bahrain	8	4	3	1	15	4	15
Hong Kong	8	1	2	5	4	13	5
Cambodia	8	0	1	7	2	44	1

Group D

Mar 30 - Riyadh
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Shahrani 37, Al-Wuwallad 43, Al-Shehri 52,58, S. Al-Dawsari 88 pen)
Palestine 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Qasim (Irq)

Jun 3 - Riyadh
Palestine 4 (Seyam 19 pen, 30 pen, Dabbagh 23, Hamed 85)
Singapore 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Mohamed (UAE)

Jun 5 - Riyadh
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Dawsari 4, Al-Muwallad 17, 32)
Yemen 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Gamini (Sri)

Jun 7 - Riyadh
Uzbekistan 5 (Masharipov 6, 34, Shomurodov 45+1, Ahmedov 50, Fandi 88 og)
Singapore 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Abdulnabi (Bhr)

Jun 11 - Riyadh
Yemen 0
Uzbekistan 1 (Masharipov 19 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mohamed (UAE)

Jun 11 - Riyadh
Singapore 0
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Dawsari 84, Al-Muwallad 86, Al-Shehri 90+6)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Qasim (Irq)

Jun 15 - Riyadh
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Faraj 25, 33, Al-Hassan 52)
Uzbekistan 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hyung-jin (Kor)

Jun 15 - Riyadh
Palestine 3 (Dabbagh 43, 84, Hamed 45+3)
Yemen 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tufayelieh (Syr)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia (Q)	8	6	2	0	22	4	20
Uzbekistan	8	5	0	3	18	9	15
Palestine	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Singapore	8	2	1	5	7	22	7
Yemen	8	1	2	5	6	18	5

Group E

Jun 3 - Doha
Bangladesh 1 (Barman 83)
Afghanistan 1 (Sharifi 47)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bonyadifard (Irq)

Jun 3 - Doha
India 0
Qatar 1 (Hatem 33)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ning (Chn)

Jun 7 - Doha
Bangladesh 0
India 2 (Chhetri 79, 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Thamer (Irq)

Jun 7 - Doha
Oman 0
Qatar 1 (Al-Haydos 39 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Perera (Sri)

Jun 11 - Doha
Afghanistan 1 (Popalzay 23)
Oman 2 (Fawaz 13, 51)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ning (Chn)

Jun 15 - Doha
India 1 (Azizi 75 og)
Afghanistan 1 (Zamani 81)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Reda (Lbn)

Jun 15 - Doha
Bangladesh 0
Oman 3 (Al-Ghafri 22, Al-Hajri 60, 80)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar*	8	7	1	0	18	1	22
Oman (Q)	8	6	0	2	16	6	18
India	8	1	4	3	6	7	7
Afghanistan	8	1	3	4	5	15	6
Bangladesh	8	0	2	6	3	19	2

Qatar have already qualified as hosts

Group F

Mar 25 - Dushanbe
Tajikistan 3 (M. Dzhailov 4, A. Dzhailov 50, Samiev 87)
Mongolia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al Sabah (Irq)

Mar 30 - Chiba
Mongolia 0
Japan 14 (Minamino 13, Osako 23, 55, 90+2, Kamada 26, Morita 33, Tuya 39 og, Ingaki 68, 90+3, Ito 73,79, Furuhashi 78, 87, Asano 90+1)
HT: 0-5. **Ref:** Akrami (Irn)

May 28 - Chiba
Japan 10 (Minamino 8, 66, Osako 22, 30 pen, 36, 49, 88, Morita 57, Kamada 84, Itakura 90+1)
Myanmar 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Akrami (Irn)

Jun 7 - Osaka
Kyrgyzstan 0
Mongolia 1 (Mijiddorj 34)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ming-hsun (Tpe)

Jun 7 - Suita
Japan 4 (Furuhashi 6, Minamino 40, Hashimoto 51, Kawabe 71)
Tajikistan 1 (Panjshanbe 9)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Al-Jassim (Qat)

Jun 11 - Osaka
Myanmar 1 (Bo 69)
Kyrgyzstan 8 (Rustamov 22, Alykulov 29, Musabekov 34, Shukurov 45, Murzaev 45+2, 61, 78, Bokoleyev 63)
HT: 0-5. **Ref:** Yehia (Lbn)

Jun 15 - Suita
Japan 5 (Onaiwu 27 pen, 31, 33, Sasaki 72, Asano 77)
Kyrgyzstan 1 (Murzaev 45+2 pen)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Al-Yaqoubi (Oma)

Jun 15 - Osaka
Tajikistan 4 (Tursunov 34, Dzhalilov 53, Boboev 78, Samiev 87)
Myanmar 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al-Ali (UAE)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan (Q)	8	8	0	0	46	2	24
Tajikistan	8	4	1	3	14	12	13
Kyrgyzstan	8	3	1	4	19	12	10
Mongolia	8	2	0	6	3	27	6
Myanmar	8	2	0	6	6	35	6

Group G

Jun 3 - Dubai
Thailand 2 (Narubadin 5, Adisak 50)
Indonesia 2 (Agung 39, Dimas 60)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Mahfoodh (Bhr)

Jun 3 - Dubai
UAE 4 (Mabkhout 18, 90+1, Lima 83, 90+2)
Malaysia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Dae-yong (Kor)

Jun 7 - Dubai
UAE 3 (Caio 14, Lima 33, Jumaa 90+4)
Thailand 1 (Suphanat 54)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Sato (Jpn)

Jun 7 - Dubai
Vietnam 4 (Linh 51, Hai 62, Phuong 67, Thanh 74)
Indonesia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Ali (Jor)

Jun 11 - Dubai
Indonesia 0
UAE 5 (Mabkhout 22, 49 pen, Lima 28, 55, Tagliabue 86)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Al-Hoish (Ksa)

Jun 11 - Dubai
Malaysia 1 (Guilherme 72 pen)
Vietnam 2 (Linh 27, Hai 82 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sato (Jpn)

Jun 15 - Dubai
UAE 3 (Salmeen 32, Mabkhout 40 pen, Khamees 50)
Vietnam 2 (Linh 85, Vuong 90+3)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Sabah (Irq)

Jun 15 - Dubai
Thailand 0
Malaysia 1 (Safawi 52 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Hoish (Ksa)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE (Q)	8	6	0	2	23	7	18
Vietnam (Q)	8	5	2	1	13	5	17
Malaysia	8	4	0	4	10	12	12
Thailand	8	2	3	3	9	9	9
Indonesia	8	0	1	7	5	27	1

Group H

Jun 5 - Goyang
Lebanon 3 (Oumari 11, 44, Kdouh 17)
Sri Lanka 2 (Razeek 10, 61 pen)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Ibrahim (Jor)

Jun 5 - Goyang
South Korea 5 (Hwang 9, 72, Nam 45+2, Kim 56, Kwon 62)
Turkmenistan 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Al-Khudhayr (Ksa)

Jun 9 - Goyang
Turkmenistan 3 (Babajanow 59, Annagulyyew 85, Annadurdyyew 90+1)
Lebanon 2 (Ataya 73, Saad 75)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hattab (Syr)

Jun 9 - Goyang
Sri Lanka 0
South Korea 5 (Kim 14, 42 pen, Lee 22, Hwang 53, Jung 77)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Yinhao (Chn)

Jun 13 - Goyang
South Korea 2 (Song 50, Son 65 pen)
Lebanon 1 (Saad 12)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Al-Marri (Qat)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea (Q)	8	5	1	0	22	1	16
Lebanon (Q)	8	3	1	2	11	8	10
Turkmenistan	8	3	0	3	8	11	9
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	6	2	23	0
North Korea (W)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONCACAF section

● *3.5 finals places available*

First Round

Group A

Jun 2 - San Cristobal
Montserrat 4 (Pond 39, Ince 60, Clifton 66, 83)
US Virgin Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Chavarria (Hon)

Jun 4 - North Sound
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (Browne 20)
Grenada 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Mex)

Jun 6 - Upper Bethlehem
US Virgin Islands 0
El Salvador 7 (Monterrosa 23, 86, Portillo 30, Rugamas 78, 82, 90, Perez 79)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Unkel (USA)

Jun 9 - St. George's
Grenada 1 (Lewis 51)
Montserrat 2 (Taylor 85, 87 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Escobedo (Mex)

Jun 9 - San Salvador
El Salvador 3 (Zavaleta 40, Rugamas 68, Martinez 85)
Antigua & Barbuda 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Crc)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Salvador (Q)	4	3	1	0	13	1	10
Montserrat	4	2	2	0	9	4	8
Antigua & Barbuda	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Grenada	4	1	0	3	2	5	3
US Virgin Islands	4	0	0	4	0	15	0

Group B

Jun 2 - Bradenton
Cayman Islands 1 (Ebanks 30 pen)
Aruba 3 (John 40, 75, Groothusen 45+2)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Aguirre (Mex)

Jun 4 - Paramaribo
Suriname 6 (Becker 3, 36, Hasselbaink 15, 37, 65, Pinas 74)
Bermuda 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Escobar (Gua)

Jun 6 - Bradenton
Aruba 0
Canada 7 (Cavallini 17, 45+2, Hoilett 20 pen, Brault-Guillard 49, Davies 78, Larin 87, David 89)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Ortiz (Mex)

Jun 9 - Bradenton
Bermuda 1 (Hall 65)
Cayman Islands 1 (Ebanks 23)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Vazquez (USA)

Jun 9 - Bridgeview
Canada 4 (Davies 37, David 59, 73, 77 pen)
Suriname 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Saghafi (USA)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada (Q)	4	4	0	0	27	1	12
Suriname	4	3	0	1	15	4	9
Bermuda	4	1	1	2	7	12	4
Aruba	4	1	0	3	3	19	3
Cayman Islands	4	0	1	3	2	18	1

Group C

Jun 2 - Guatemala
Cuba 5 (Paradela 33, Hernandez 68, M. Reyes 76, Cavafe 80, D. Reyes 90+1)
British Virgin Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Rivera (Pur)

Jun 4 - Guatemala
Guatemala 10 (Lom 2, Barrientos 12, Santis 16, Hernandez 33 pen, Gordillo 41, Martinez 52, Betancourth 66, Ceballos 79 pen, Vargas 85, Mendez 89)
St. Vincent & Grenadines 0
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Pavon (Nca)

Jun 5 - Guatemala
British Virgin Islands 0
Curacao 8 (Kuwas 7, Maria 9, 27, Bacuna 11, Benschop 18 pen, 22, Gorre 57, 90+1)
HT: 0-6. **Ref:** Anderson (Pur)

Jun 8 - St. George's
St. Vincent & Grenadines 0
Cuba 1 (Reyes 64)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ramirez (Mex)

Jun 9 - Willemstad
Curacao 0
Guatemala 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Villareal (USA)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curacao (Q)	4	3	1	0	15	1	10
Guatemala	4	3	1	0	14	0	10
Cuba	4	2	0	2	7	3	6
St. Vincent & Gren	4	1	0	3	3	16	3
British Virgin Islands	4	0	0	4	0	19	0

Group D

Jun 2 - Santo Domingo
Dominica 3 (Thomas 3, Bertrand 34, Wade 42)
Anguilla 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Ward (Skn)

Jun 5 - Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic 1 (Rodriguez 90+2)
Barbados 1 (Reid-Stephen 42)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Miranda (Slv)

Jun 6 - Panama
Anguilla 0
Panama 13 (Cooper 7, 18, Aguilar 31, Torres 35 pen, 53, 70, 83 pen, Smith 48 og, Waterman 50, Camargo 58, Catuy 73, Quintero 84, Palacios 90)
HT: 0-4. **Ref:** Reyna (Gua)

Jun 9 - Santo Domingo
Barbados 1 (Saimovici 48)
Dominica 1 (Wade 57)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bonilla (Slv)

Jun 9 - Panama
Panama 3 (Godoy 8, Barcenas 67, Waterman 86)
Dominican Republic 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Castellanos (Gua)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panama (Q)	4	4	0	0	19	1	12
Dominican Republic	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
Barbados	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Dominica	4	1	1	2	5	4	4
Anguilla	4	0	0	4	0	23	0

Group E

Jun 5 - Managua
Nicaragua 3 (Rodriguez 25, Bonilla 46, Barrera 51)
Belize 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Salgado (Hon)

Jun 5 - Providenciales
Turks & Caicos Islands 0
Haiti 10 (Nazon 27, 30, 34, 37, Antoine 42, 53, 83, Pierrot 75, 87, 90+2)
HT: 0-5. **Ref:** Robles (Mex)

Jun 8 - Port-au-Prince
Haiti 1 (Etienne 63)
Nicaragua 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Morrison (Jam)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haiti (Q)	3	3	0	0	13	0	9
Nicaragua	3	2	0	1	10	1	6
Belize	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Turks & Caicos Islands	3	0	0	3	0	22	0
Saint Lucia (W)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group F

Jun 3 - Mayaguez
Puerto Rico 7 (Diaz 3, Rivera 13, 43 pen, Angking 31, Vega 62, Servania 66, Hayes 90+2)
Bahamas 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Penso (USA)

Jun 4 - Basseterre
St. Kitts & Nevis 3 (Freeman 9 pen, 36, Sawyers 67)
Guyana 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Leca (Aru)

Jun 5 - Nassau
Bahamas 0
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vergara (Pan)

Jun 8 - Basseterre
Guyana 0
Puerto Rico 2 (Rivera 12, Angking 25 pen)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Melendez (Slv)

Jun 8 - Santo Domingo
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Muckette 36, Hyland 74)
St. Kitts & Nevis 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Solano (Dom)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. Kitts Nevis (Q)	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Trinidad & Tobago	4	2	2	1	6	1	8
Puerto Rico	4	2	1	1	10	2	7
Guyana	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Bahamas	4	0	1	3	0	15	1

Second Round

1st Leg

Jun 12 - Basseterre
St. Kitts & Nevis 0
El Salvador 4 (Rugamas 3, 27, Perez 20, Ceren 64 pen)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Morrison (Jam)

Jun 12 - Port-au-Prince
Haiti 0
Canada 1 (Larin 14)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)

Jun 12 - Panama City
Panama 2 (Quintero 55, Waterman 77)
Curacao 1 (Janga 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bonilla (Slv)

2nd Leg

Jun 15 - San Salvador
El Salvador 2 (6) (Perez 24, Mayen 87)
Saint Kitts and Nevis 0 (0)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Crc)

Jun 15 - Bridgeview
Canada 3 (4) (Duverger 46 og, Larin 74, Hoilett 89)
Haiti 0 (0)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vazquez (USA)

Jun 15 - Willemstad
Curacao 0 (1)
Panama 0 (2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ortiz (Mex)

CONMEBOL section

● *4.5 finals places available*

Jun 3 - La Paz
Bolivia 3 (Moreno 5, 83, Bejarano 60)
Venezuela 1 (Chancellor 26)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ospina (Col)

Jun 3 - Montevideo
Uruguay 0
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)

Jun 4 - Santiago del Estero
Argentina 1 (Messi 23 pen)
Chile 1 (Sanchez 36)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Valenzuela (Ven)

Jun 4 - Lima
Peru 0
Colombia 3 (Mina 40, Uribe 49, Diaz 55)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)

Jun 5 - Porto Alegre
Brazil 2 (Richarlison 65, Neymar 90+4 pen)
Ecuador 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Herrera (Ven)

Jun 8 - Quito
Ecuador 1 (Plata 90+3)
Peru 2 (Cueva 63, Advincula 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ostojich (Uru)

Jun 8 - Caracas
Venezuela 0
Uruguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Daronco (Bra)

Jun 9 - Barranquilla
Colombia 2 (Muriel 51 pen, Borja 90+4)
Argentina 2 (Romero 3, Paredes 8)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Tobar (Chi)

Jun 9 - Asuncion
Paraguay 0
Brazil 2 (Neymar 4, Paqueta 90+3)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)

Jun 9 - Santiago
Chile 1 (Pulgar 69)
Bolivia 1 (Moreno 81 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

Current Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	6	6	0	0	16	2	18
Argentina	6	3	3	0	9	5	12
Ecuador	6	3	0	3	14	10	9
Uruguay	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Colombia	6	2	2	2	11	13	8
Paraguay	6	1	4	1	6	7	7
Chile	6	1	3	2	8	8	6
Bolivia	6	1	2	3	9	14	5
Venezuela	6	1	1	4	3	9	4
Peru	6	1	1	4	6	14	4

2021 CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE

Semi-Finals

Jun 3 - Denver
Honduras 0
United States 1 (Siebatcheu 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nation (Jam)

Jun 3 - Denver
Mexico 0*
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lopez (Gua)
**Mexico win 5-4 on penalties*

Third-Place Play-Off

Jun 3 - Denver
Honduras 2 (E. Rodriguez 48, Elis 80)
Costa Rica 2 (Campbell 8, Calvo 85)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Radix (Grn)
**Honduras win 5-4 on penalties*

Final

Jun 3 - Denver
United States 3 (Reyna 27, McKennie 82, Pulisic 114 pen)
Mexico 2 (Corona 2, Lainez 79)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
**After Extra-Time*

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

May 23 - Kharkiv
Ukraine 1 (Tsyhankov 90+1)
Bahrain 1 (Dhiya 75 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Orel (Cze)

May 24 - Dubai
Jordan 1 (Saify 54)
UAE 5 (Mabkhout 17 pen, 29, 50, Ibrahim 32, Caio 89)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Samahiji (Bhr)

May 27 - Alanya
Turkey 2 (Dervisoglu 34, Ayhan 44)
Azerbaijan 1 (Mahmudov 28)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Nuza (Kvx)

May 28 - Cagliari
Italy 7 (Bernardeschi 31, Ferrari 34, Politano 49, 77, Belotti 67, Pessina 74, 86)
San Marino 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Cann (Mlt)

May 29 - Solna
Sweden 2 (Quaison 22, S. Larsson 58 pen)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kehlet (Den)

May 29 - Al Majma'ah
Iraq 6 (Zarah 7, Abdulzahra 39, Hussein 40, 45+1, Meme 67, Jasim 75)
Nepal 2 (Bista 8, Dangi 29)
HT: 4-2. **Ref:** Khalefah (Kuw)

May 30 - Texas
Mexico 2 (Lozano 73, 78)
Iceland 1 (Alvarez 14 og)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Unkel (USA)

May 30 - Klagenfurt
Malta 0
Northern Ireland 3 (Jones 2, Whyte 53, McCann 55)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gishamer (Aut)

May 30 - St. Gallen
Switzerland 2 (Rodriguez 10, Zuber 63)
United States 1 (Lietget 5)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Osmers (Ger)

May 31 - Antalya
Turkey 0
Guinea 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Agayev (Aze)

Jun 1 - Velika Gorica
Croatia 1 (Perisic 24)
Armenia 1 (Angulo 72)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Bilbija (Bih)

Jun 1 - Ried im Innkreis
Slovakia 1 (Benes 27)
Bulgaria 1 (Iliev 9)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Altmann (Aut)

Jun 1 - Skopje
North Macedonia 1 (Elmas 55)
Slovenia 1 (Crnigoj 90+7)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kasumi (Kvx)

Jun 1 - Wroclaw
Poland 1 (Swierczok 4)
Russia 1 (Karavayev 20)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Guida (Ita)

Jun 1 - Pristina
Kosovo 4 (Muriqi 28, 45+1, 46, 76 pen)
San Marino 1 (Tomassini 85)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ugurlu (Tur)

Jun 2 - Sarajevo
Bosnia & Herzegovina 0
Montenegro 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Simovic (Srb)

Jun 2 - Malaga
Norway 1 (Haaland 90+2)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe)

Jun 2 - Ploiesti
Romania 1 (Ivan 78)
Georgia 2 (Mikautadze 61, Aburjania 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)

Jun 2 - Sao Joao da Venda
Netherlands 2 (Depay 17, 89)
Scotland 2 (Hendry 10, Nisbet 63)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ferreira (Por)

Jun 2 - Middlesbrough
England 1 (Saka 56)
Austria 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Visser (Bel)

Jun 2 - Innsbruck
Germany 1 (Neuhaus 48)
Denmark 1 (Poulsen 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Weinberger (Aut)

Jun 2 - Nice
France 3 (Mbappe 34, Griezmann 47, Dembele 79)
Wales 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Godinho (Por)

Jun 2 - Minsk
Belarus 1 (Skavysh 56)
Azerbaijan 2 (Huseynov 73, Seydayev 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Muntean (Rou)

Jun 3 - St. Gallen
Switzerland 7 (Gavranovic 19, 75, 79, Fassnacht 46, 70, Frick 57 og, Fernandes 85)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kajtazovic (Svn)

Jun 3 - Andorra la Vella
Andorra 1 (Vales 52)
Republic of Ireland 4 (Parrott 58, 61, Knight 84, Horgan 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Estrada (Esp)

Jun 3 - Paderborn
Turkey 2 (Yilmaz 58, Under 77)
Moldova 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stegemann (Ger)

Jun 3 - Dnipro
Ukraine 1 (Zubkov 10)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)

Jun 3 - Brussels
Belgium 1 (T. Hazard 20)
Greece 1 (Tzavellas 66)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Verissimo (Por)

Jun 3 - Blida
Algeria 4 (Feghouli 40, 57, Ounas 60, Bounedjah 70)
Mauritania 1 (Yacoub 55)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Din (Egy)

Jun 4 - Helsinki
Finland 0
Estonia 1 (Sappinen 59 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Burchardt (Den)

Jun 4 - Madrid
Spain 0
Portugal 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pawson (Eng)

Jun 4 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Schafer 36)
Cyprus 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jug (Svn)

Jun 4 - Wiener Neustadt
Nigeria 0
Cameroon 1 (Anguissa 37)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)

Jun 4 - Bologna
Italy 4 (Immobile 23, Barella 42, Insigne 66, Berardi 73)
Czech Republic 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Tschudi (Sui)

Jun 4 - Koper
Slovenia 6 (Sporar 11, 34, Ilicic 17, 57, Mlakar 38, Stankovic 61)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Kaljanac (Bih)

Jun 4 - Klagenfurt
Malta 1 (Dimech 45+1)
Kosovo 2 (Rashica 19, 84)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Jager (Aut)

Jun 4 - Skopje
North Macedonia 4 (Alioski 35 pen, Trichkovski 57, Ristovski 74, Churlinov 76)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Milacic (Mne)

Jun 5 - Moskva
Russia 1 (Sobolev 84 pen)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kulbakov (Blr)

Jun 5 - Cardiff
Wales 0
Albania 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Doyle (Irl)

Jun 5 - Solna
Sweden 3 (Forsberg 16, Danielsson 34, Berg 85)
Armenia 1 (Bichakhchyan 64)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)

Jun 5 - Rades
Tunisia 1 (Sliti 45)
DR Congo 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mutaz (Lby)

Jun 5 - Podgorica
Montenegro 1 (Beciraj 81 pen)
Israel 3 (Zahavi 67, Solomon 69, Kinda 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Peljto (Bih)

Jun 6 - Vienna
Austria 0
Slovakia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Schnyder (Sui)

Jun 6 - Middlesbrough
England 1 (Rashford 68 pen)
Romania 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Martins (Por)

Jun 6 - Brondby
Denmark 2 (Braithwaite 18, Cornelius 73)
Bosnia & Herzegovina 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Viljanen (Fin)

Jun 6 - Enschede
Netherlands 3 (Depay 10 pen, Weghorst 55, Gravenberch 76)
Georgia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lambrechts (Bel)

Jun 6 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Scotland 1 (Adams 27)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Hamiti (Alb)

Jun 6 - Malaga
Norway 1 (Strandberg 64)
Greece 2 (Masouras 13, Androutsos 21)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Kehlet (Den)

Jun 6 - Blida
Algeria 1 (Mahrez 56)
Mali 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ghandour (Egy)

Jun 7 - Miki
Serbia 1 (Pavlovic 61)
Jamaica 1 (Gray 29)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Yamamoto (Jpn)

Jun 7 - Kharkiv
Ukraine 4 (Yarmolenko 37 pen, 65, Zinchenko 45+2 pen, Yaremchuk 59)
Cyprus 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Spasjonnikovs (Lva)

Jun 7 - Dusseldorf
Germany 7 (Gosens 19, Gundogan 21, Muller 27, Ozols 39 og, Gnabry 45, Werner 50, Sane 76)
Latvia 1 (Saveljevs 75)
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Dabanovic (Mne)

Jun 8 - Wiener Neustadt
Cameroon 0
Nigeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Schuttengruber (Aut)

Jun 8 - Poznan
Poland 2 (Zielinski 34, Swiderski 88)
Iceland 2 (Gudmundsson 24, Bjarnason 47)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Berke (Hun)

Jun 8 - Cotonou
Benin 2 (Soukou 12, Roche 80)
Zambia 2 (Phiri 19, Mwape 45+1)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Aklassou (Tog)

Jun 8 - Budapest
Hungary 0
Republic of Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)

Jun 8 - Prague
Czech Republic 3 (Schick 18, Masopust 68, Celustka 89)
Albania 1 (Cikalleshi 42)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Kralovic (Svk)

Jun 8 - Leganes
Spain 4 (Guillamon 3, Diaz 24, Miranda 53, Puado 72)
Lithuania 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Delajod (Fra)

Jun 8 - Rabat
Morocco 1 (El Yamiq 69)
Ghana 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Diouf (Sen)

Jun 8 - Thies
Senegal 2 (Gueye 55, Mane 86 pen)
Cape Verde Islands 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jallow (Gam)

Jun 8 - Saint-Denis
France 3 (Griezmann 29, Giroud 83, 90)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)

Jun 9 - Lisbon
Portugal 4 (Bruno Fernandes 42, 90+1, Cristiano Ronaldo 44, Joao Cancelo 86)
Israel 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Pignard (Fra)

Jun 10 - Utah
United States 4 (Aaronson 8, Dike 42, Cannon 52, Reyna 77 pen)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bassue (Skn)

Jun 11 - Kobe
Japan 1 (Ito 48)
Serbia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Heydari (Irn)

Jun 11 - Rades
Tunisia 0
Algeria 2 (Bounedjah 19, Mahrez 28)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Mansour (Egy)

Jun 11 - Sidi
Kosovo 1 (Hoxha 80)
Gambia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kardesler (Tur)

Jun 12 - Cape Coast
Ghana 0
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gueye (Sen)

Jun 12 - Rabat
Morocco 1 (Hakimi 51)
Burkina Faso 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bouh (Mtn)

Jun 15 - Rades
Tunisia 1 (Slimane 90)
Mali 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Noureddine (Mar)

Jun 17 - Bir El Djir
Algeria 5 (Amoura 39, 41, 47, 68, Messaoudi 84 pen)
Liberia 1 (Dorley 24)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Mutaz (Lby)

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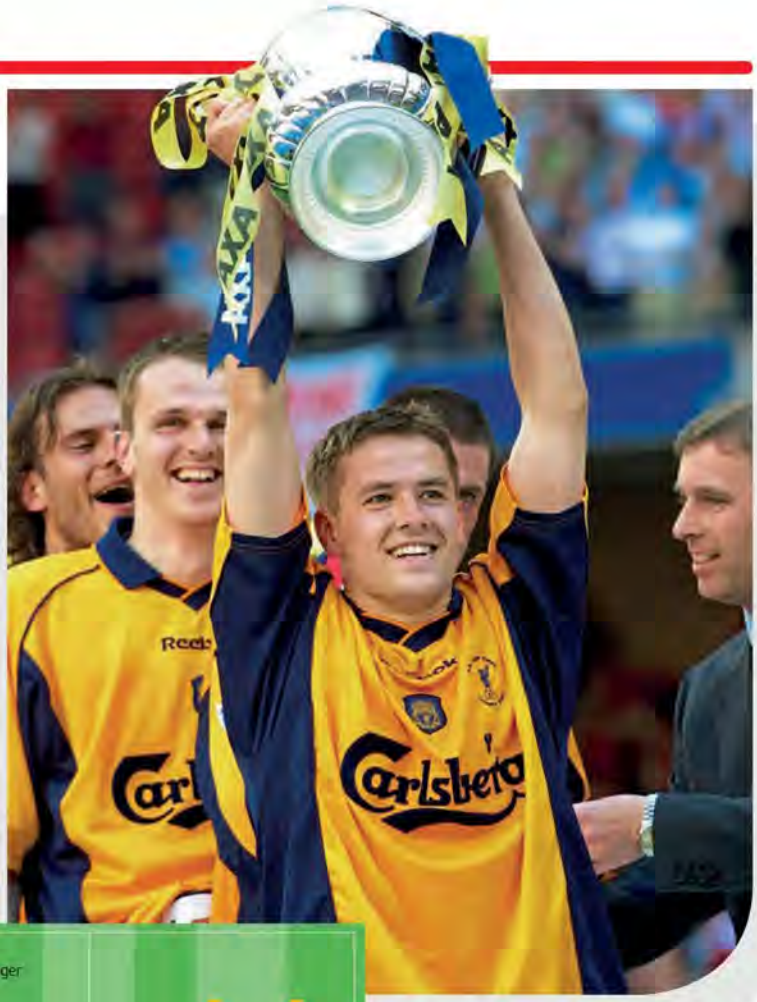
Michael Owen

Arsenal 1 Liverpool 2

2001 FA Cup Final, Cardiff

When Michael Owen reflects on the two games he feels define his career, the 2001 Ballon d'Or winner puts a match-winning display for Liverpool ahead of his iconic breakthrough performance for England against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup.

The teenage Owen scored a goal that was instantly hailed as one of the best seen at a World Cup as he raced half the length of the field to create a moment he admits changed his life, but it was a display three years later that he cherishes most.



"Owen final"... the striker lifts the FA Cup

"There are not many times when you go onto a football field believing no one can stop you, but that is how I felt in the 2001 FA Cup final against Arsenal.

At every step of my early career, I believed I could score against anyone; give me the ball, create a chance for me and it will be a goal. That was my attitude when I was a teenager, and the success I had with Liverpool and then with England did nothing to dilute that belief.

In that cup final v Arsenal, I felt as if I was unstoppable if I was given a chance.

We were second best for most of the game, but it was only 1-0 going into the closing stages and I felt that my moment was coming.

This was an Arsenal team at the peak of their powers: Patrick Vieira, Robert Pires, Freddie Ljungberg and Thierry Henry were all giving us real problems, but it all turned around in the final few minutes.

I scored from what was pretty much my first chance of the game, and then I knew the second one was coming with their defenders tiring. When the ball came for me to run on to I knew I was going to score; it's such a wonderful feeling.

I remember running at the Arsenal defence and it was up to me what happened next. They couldn't stop me and I knew the cup was in my hands. When the shot went past David Seaman, the rush was as good as it got for me in football. That's why it will always be the best day of my career.

Football is about winning trophies and I remember the pride my family felt after my goals that day. It was my only FA Cup final and a wonderful memory.

They say the value of the FA Cup has diminished in recent years, but finishing fourth in the Premier League is not the dream you have growing up. You want to win trophies and that is why I look back on that day with so much satisfaction.

The other time I felt like that was against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup, when I was given a start by Glenn Hoddle. I just knew I would score that night.

People still talk to me about my goal to this day and there is no doubt it changed a lot for me in my career.

Life-changing...Owen runs through the Argentina defence

I didn't do a lot of research into the Argentina defence prior to the game, but it was clear that they didn't like a quick striker running at them. That was obvious from the first minute.

The goal felt so easy. I got the ball from David Beckham and I could see their defenders were in horrible positions. Roberto Ayala was a great player, but he was not in the right place to defend against me and from the moment I got the ball I thought of one thing: goal.

As I look back on it now, it was the moment that changed my life. When you score a goal like that, it changes the way you are viewed all over the world and even though I always had belief in my ability, everyone knew about me from that moment on.

> When the ball came for me to run on to I knew I was going to score

That goal against Argentina represents everything I stood for. I was fearless, I was ruthless. No opponent intimidated me.

When a striker feels like that, he is very difficult to stop."

Interview by Kevin Palmer

Michael Owen's autobiography ***Reboot*** *is available now*

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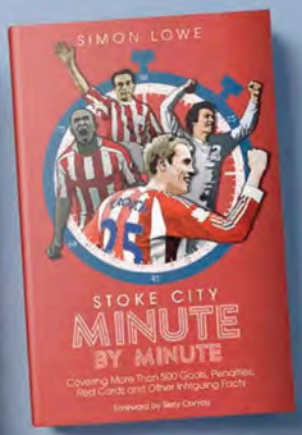

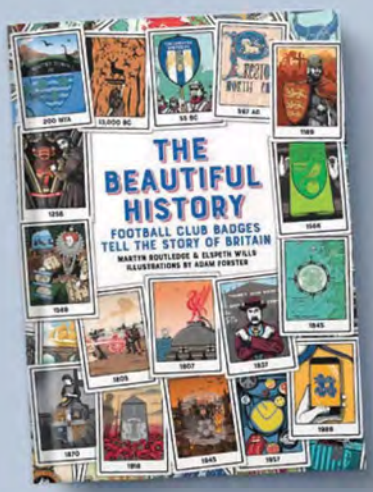

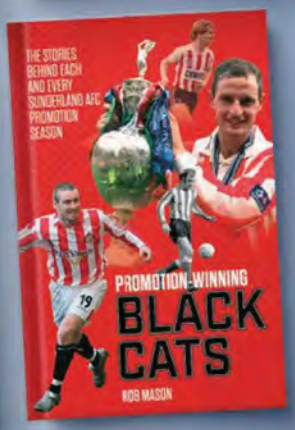

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